



Inside

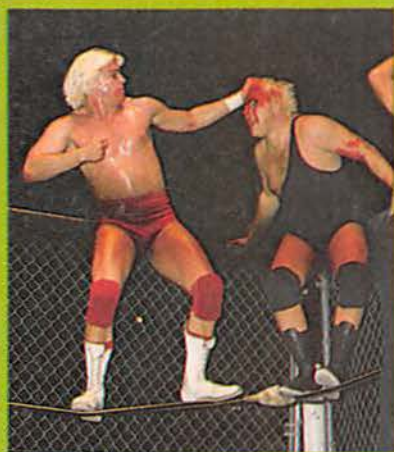
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April 1980

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Wrestling

**HULK HOGAN:
"CRIPPLING,
DESTROYING,
WINNING ...
THAT'S WHAT I
DO BEST!"**

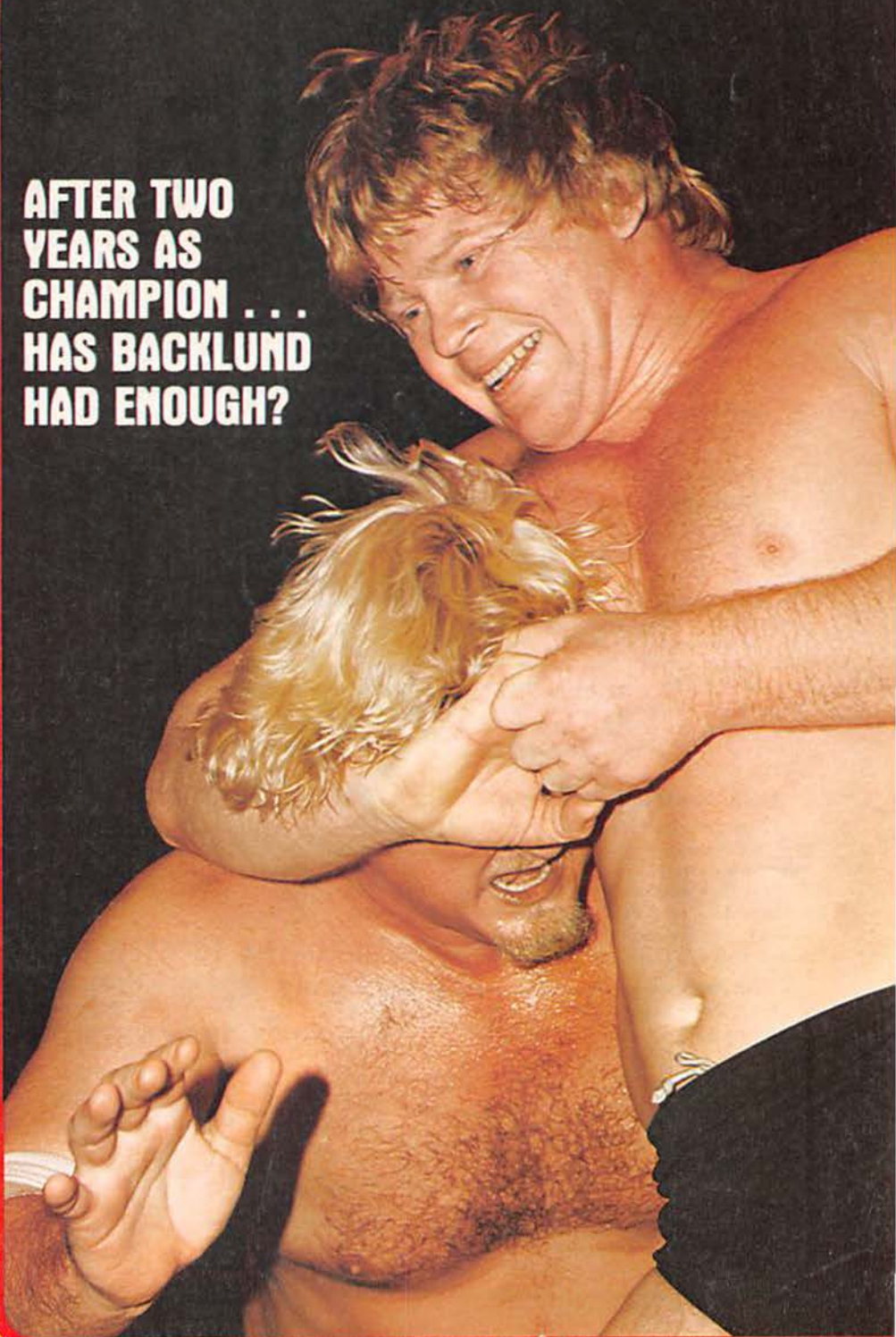


**WHY AWA
FANS HATE
TOMMY RICH**

**Dusty Rhodes and
Manny Fernandez:
WILL
HARLEY RACE
MAKE THEM
ENEMIES?**

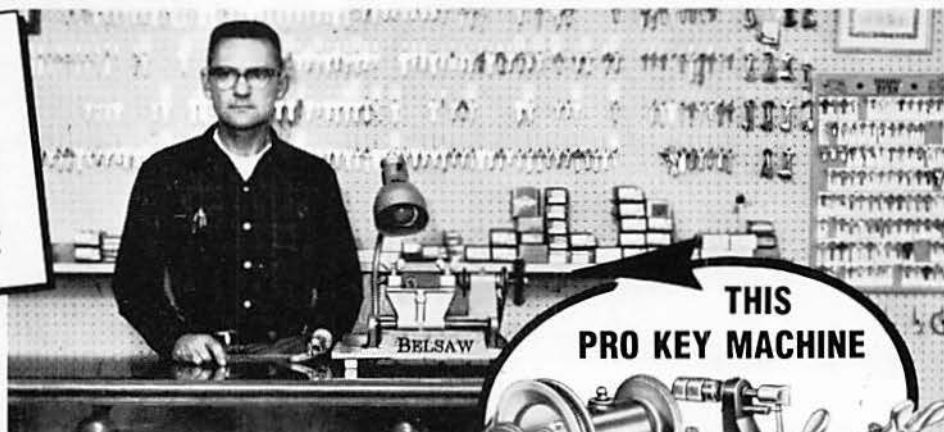


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says Glen Johnson,
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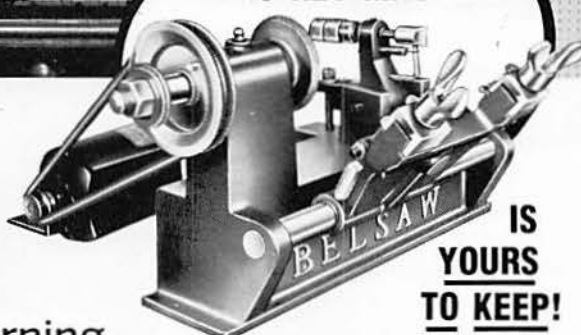
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THE GUARANTEED HAIR PLAN

BECAUSE I WOULD RATHER HAVE HAIR THAN NOT

By T.G.M. KLAR, President, Klar Company, M/O Division

THE PICTURES ARE THE PROOF. I certainly think that I look much better with a healthy head of hair than without.

When my hair became thin and started falling out I became concerned.

Through an artist's rendition in the retouched photograph of me without hair you can see why I would be concerned. Like most people I would rather have hair than not, however, I did not want to have thin, lifeless hair.

The picture on the right is a recent photograph of me - **totally unretouched** - with a thick, healthy head of **MY OWN** hair at 35. As you can see I am no longer worried about a hair problem. **How did I solve it?** Actually, it was just a simple 1-2 step once I found the solution. After years of trying different hair products, shampoos, creams and vitamins to help my own thin hair problem, I recognized that **MANY** hair problems, male and female, were two-fold.

FIRST: Hair may become oily and limp, dry, lifeless and **THIN**.

SECOND: Healthy new hair might **GROW OUT SLOWLY** or may **NOT** grow out at all in places. It became obvious to me that for a two-part hair problem, a two-part solution was needed.

(1) I had to find a way to get back a **thick, healthy growth of hair**.

(2) I needed to find a substance that would **protect** the hair that I had. Something that would make it appear healthier and **THICKER** right away. I didn't want to wait for 6 months or a year. As you can imagine, my Company and I went all out to find a solution.

After several years of research, we finally came up with a solution. It came in two steps: **Step 1** - Solved my problems of having limp, lifeless and **THIN** HAIR, and **Step 2** - Solved the problem of my **HAIR GROWING OUT SLOWLY** or not growing at all in places.

— THE SOLUTION —

[PART 1] Since your **HAIR** and **SCALP** grow from **THE INSIDE OF YOUR BODY OUTWARD**, it is **absolutely necessary** that you have the ingredients for a healthy scalp and a thick full head of hair **INSIDE YOUR BODY**.

That is just **COMMON SENSE**.

Doctors and Scientists, Nutritionists and Beauty Experts have stated that without the ingredients **INSIDE** your body needed to feed the scalp and hair at the roots, the following problems may develop: A greasy, oily dandruff • Dry hair lacking shine, luster and body • The premature graying of hair • Oily hair • **SLOW** growing hair • Thin hair • and the • Falling out of hair in some cases for women as well as men.

But what are the ingredients necessary for healthy hair, skin and scalp?

We researched the latest reports of Scientists, Doctors, Nutritionists and Beauty Experts.

After we completed the research, we needed to develop a special formula combining many of the **EXPERT'S RECOMMENDATIONS**.

For this, my Company and I turned to one of America's leading Pharmaceutical Laboratories. Not for some magical cure-all but simply for a common sense, completely safe, **HIGH POTENCY SUPPLEMENT** containing **57 SPECIFIC INGREDIENTS**.

The chemists went to work on scientifically formulating this **HIGH POTENCY SUPPLEMENT**. They found ways of putting together ingredients recommended by many Doctors, Nutritionists and Beauty Experts as a **MUST** for healthy **HAIR, SKIN** and **SCALP**. They were able to put it all into a completely safe, easy to take and convenient **TABLET** form.

Among the **57 INGREDIENTS** contained in the tablets are **PROTEIN-AMINO ACIDS, 12 VITAMINS, LIPOTROPIC FACTORS, 10 MINERALS, NUTRIENTS FOR THE SKIN, R.N.A., plus IRON and BIOTIN**. **BIOTIN** is a nutrient recently reported to aid many with scalp problems, thinning hair, as well as balding.

Finally, after years of waiting, the tablets were completed.

Next came the big test.

WOULD THE TABLETS REALLY WORK FOR ME?

My recent photograph speaks for itself. **BUT WHAT ABOUT OTHERS?** By 1978 the results were in.

In the past year our **PLAN** tablets have become one of the world's largest selling tablets designed for **HAIR** and **SKIN**.

Since they are so safe that they do not require a prescription, our tablets have been ordered and **even more important RE-ORDERED** by the **MILLIONS** by satisfied customers from every state in the United States as well as from Canada, Australia, Europe, Asia and even Africa.

Finally, after years of research and development I had the tablets that gave me the necessary ingredients for healthy **SCALP, SKIN** and **HAIR** that really worked, but I didn't stop there.



I wanted something that would help to **MEND** and **PROTECT** the hair that I had left on my head as I realized it takes time for new hair to grow out. That brought me to the second part of our **GUARANTEED HAIR PLAN**.

[PART 2] We again went to the laboratory and research. We found that scientific tests have shown that when a substance known as **PANTHENOL** was regularly shampooed into the hair, it moisturized the hair, conditioned it and **REPAIRED DAMAGED HAIR SHAFTS**. But that wasn't all - further test results showed that it also **FLUFFED** up hair and actually **MADE IT THICKER**.

This was the answer we had been looking for. Getting fantastic results and **THICKER** hair by simply shampooing liquid **PANTHENOL** into the hair.

No waiting for months and years.

At last, the laboratory gave me a shampoo-in sample with another ingredient called **P.A.B.A.** added to the **PANTHENOL** to further protect the old hair.

I personally tested the **PANTHENOL** and **P.A.B.A.** on my own hair.

The very first day I used it I found it to be the most **FANTASTIC** hair conditioner I have ever used.

My hair was **IMMEDIATELY** healthier looking, **FLUFFIER** and **THICKER**, **HOWEVER**, I didn't stop the test there. I went to friends and relatives and asked them to try it. Next, I went to the experts and the public. I asked hair dressers in Beauty Salons to test our Hair Conditioner themselves.

When the reports came in, they were all raving about their fantastic results. They wanted to know where they could buy more. They said it left their hair **Healthier Looking, Fluffier** and **THICKER**.

By combining these two great products: the first for **SCALP, SKIN** and **HAIR CARE FROM WITHIN**. The second, **A LIQUID CONDITIONER** that **MOISTURIZES, CONDITIONS** and **THICKENS HAIR** for **IMMEDIATE RESULTS FROM WITHOUT**.

I had finally found a **COMPLETE SOLUTION** to my hair problems.

Having found what I believe to be the **very best HAIR CARE PLAN** in the world and being the President of a Company, I decided it was just good business sense to make this plan available to everyone. So... We named it **G.H.P.** which stands for **GUARANTEED HAIR PLAN**.

Why **Guaranteed Hair Plan**?

Because our Company **GUARANTEES** the following:

After taking the tablets and shampooing in the **PANTHENOL, P.A.B.A.** hair conditioner for two weeks, **Trying it - Testing it - Comparing it to any and all other HAIR CARE PRODUCTS** in the **WORLD**, regardless of their price, \$50-\$75 - or even \$100.

If you don't agree that our **GUARANTEED HAIR PLAN** is the **VERY BEST** and most sensible hair plan available anywhere, return the bottles within 30 days of purchase and you will receive your money back. **NO QUESTIONS ASKED**. In other words you **MUST** be satisfied. It **MUST** work for you **WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS**, Male or Female, Young or Old, or it costs you nothing.

What could be fairer?

Would you like a naturally healthier looking, more manageable, fuller, thicker head of hair? Order now and discover for yourself why so many say that: For Problem Hair - **THE GUARANTEED HAIR PLAN IS THE VERY BEST!**

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INSIDE

Wrestling

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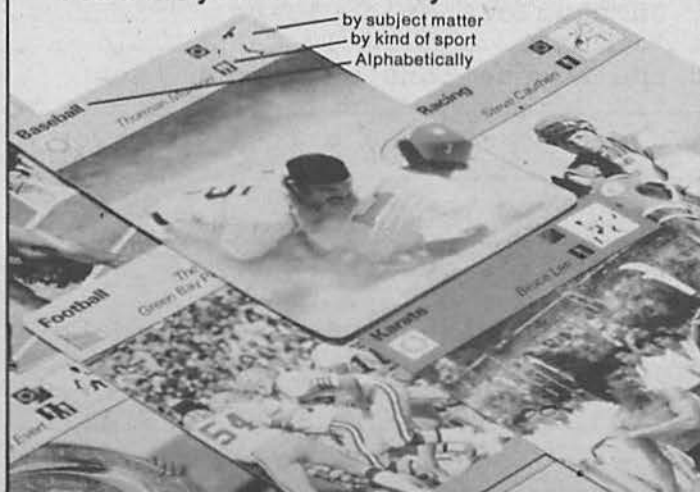
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S34

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

On a recent trip to Richmond, Virginia, I was backstage at the Richmond Coliseum a few hours before the matches were due to start. In one dressing room I saw Greg Valentine limbering up in preparation for his match that night. My feelings about Valentine are well known. And his feelings about me are also no secret. So it was surprising when he stopped his excercises and walked over to me, a wide smile on his face.

"Let's let bygones be bygones," he said while putting his arm around my shoulder. Somehow, I felt like a small canary left alone with a hungry cat. But I'm a reporter first. So I asked Valentine what he wanted to talk about.

"I've got the makings of a great story for you, right here in my pocket," he said. Reaching into his pocket, he pulled out a neatly folded sheet of loose-leaf paper. "Here, my friend, take it," he all but purred. "Read it when you get the chance. It's all true. And you definitely have my permission to print it."

I walked away and unfolded the paper. The writing on it was almost a scribble, but I was able to read it with some effort. It hurled charge after charge at Ric Flair, once Valentine's closest friend, now his most hated enemy. Most of the accusations were unbelievable, libelous, or just plain obscene. Valentine must be a fool to think I'd print this piece of garbage.

Instead I showed it to Ric Flair. Flair's eyes turned cold as they scanned the piece of paper. When he finished reading, he looked up and said, "He'll pay for this." Flair's voice was cold. I had never seen him look so determined.

When Flair and Valentine wrestle, I fear it will be to the death.

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my method of DYNAMIC-TENSION starts giving you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

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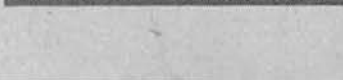
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MOST UNITED FRONTS against a common wrestling enemy disintegrate quickly, usually at the first sign of trouble. Petty jealousies and old hatreds will splinter the movement and lead to a brawling free-for-all with the original purpose forgotten.

Jerry Lawler has changed all that. From all over America, wrestlers migrate in search of Lawler's arrogant figure. They share something in common: hatred. They want Lawler exterminated. I traveled to Memphis to investigate.

It's hard to dress for Memphis in the winter. Some days can be cold, others spring-like in their seductive warmth. I met Matt Brock the first night down there and was immune to any climactic conditions whatsoever. On the second night, I visited Bill Dundee, who has organized the anti-Lawler group.

"Jerry Lawler might be the most despised wrestler on Earth," said Dundee, leaning back in a heavy chair, eyes fixed and intent. "One thing everyone agrees upon is a wrestler must keep his word. He must be trustworthy. Lawler is a lying snake who'd stab anyone in the back to get ahead. I know."

Lawler and Dundee were once close friends. For months, they were tag team partners. Then a bitter disagreement ensnared them in a vicious match which forever ended their friendship.

"I tried to explain what happened, but Lawler wouldn't listen," Dundee said, his voice rippling with pain. "So we're enemies. He'll pay. I'll get him. Rather, we'll get him."

The "we" refers to three other wrestlers: Bobo Brazil, Bruiser, and AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel. For vastly different reasons, they all want Lawler destroyed.

"I hate ugly pretty-boys who think they're cute," said Bruiser. "Lawler combs the hair on his chest and thinks that makes him a champ. Well, he's a bum and me and my buddies are gonna clobber him."

"I'd like to butt Lawler's brains into extinction," said Brazil. "He did something to me I can never forgive. I won't rest until his body is splattered over the ring and into Arkansas."



Jerry Lawler's arrogant nature prompted three of the world's top wrestlers to form a coalition to plan his demise.

"That ignorant chimpanzee had the nerve to challenge me," said Bockwinkel. "Imagine something like that challenging me, the greatest champion who ever walked the Earth. He sent his challenge on a piece of brownish paper, his message scribbled in crayon."

"I bet that about sums up his intellectual prowess. The result of the match will demonstrate his wrestling abilities," Bockwinkel continued.

This four-member group has met on several different occasions. I was not permitted to attend any of the meetings, but Dundee described the most recent one.

(Continued on page 52)

The Peaceful Man's Way to Win Fights

'If You Can't Avoid Trouble, At Least Avoid Losing'

I used to turn the other cheek. Ignore insults. Walk away from a fight. Out of fear.

All too often, my enemy looked too powerful to even try to beat. He won—hands down.

These days, I walk away for a different reason. I'm no longer afraid for myself. Now, I'm afraid for the other guy.

If he doesn't watch his step or his mouth, I can put him in the hospital for a couple of months. Or worse.

Since I developed my Peaceful Man's Way, trouble-makers seem to stay clear of me. Somehow, they sense that I can take them. If I want to.

It's as though I had an invisible bodyguard at my side 24-hours-a-day. Ready to spring to my defense instantly. To finish off anyone foolish enough to start up.

Yet, I never had a boxing lesson. I exercise much too little. And I am not a "muscle-man."

I go anywhere with confidence. Not looking for a fight, mind you. But perfectly able to handle the situation if one is absolutely unavoidable.

I'm positive that the Peaceful Man's Way will do for you what it did for me. Maybe more.

So positive, in fact, that I'm willing to let you try it out for 30 days without risking a penny.

To prove that you can promptly take care of any attacker with a few unexpected fight-winning surprises.

Such as a "little-finger" trick that cuts a tough wise-acre down to size.

A move with your wrist that makes him scream in excruciating pain.

Another with your foot that delivers eye-watering misery.

A devilish hand-clasp that breaks a choking strangle-hold. Topped by a follow-up that's a knock-out.

Just because you're peaceful doesn't mean that you have to be a victim. You may still look and act like you wouldn't hurt a fly. But heaven help the pest who mistakenly thinks you are an easy mark. A meek lamb anyone can push around with no come-back.

Instead, you turn into a tiger. Someone able to stop a mugger cold. Someone who can make a bully cry like a baby. Someone who ends fights the other guy begins.

I remember the last time I was forced to use the Peaceful Man's Way. This bruiser was a foot taller and fifty pounds heavier than me. A human King Kong.

I floored him in five seconds flat. He was totally stunned. I'll never forget that dazed look in his eyes as he asked himself "how?"

My wife knows how. I taught her and my kids. Child or adult, man or woman, anyone can learn how. And should.

You watch TV. You read the newspapers. Personal crime is our number one problem. Everyday, it's another rape, another mugging, another outrage. Don't wait until it happens to you.

Be prepared to save your life or prevent needless injury. With easily mastered techniques like these:

- The very first thing to do before a fight.
- How to overcome the mental block that ties your hands.
- How to stop being polite—and retaliate.
- How to use your feet as deadly weapons.
- How to throw a heavyweight for a loop-de-loop.
- 5 ways to paralyze an aggressor.
- The secret weapon that terrifies any opponent.

Plus dozens of ingenious "tricks" requiring no more skill than shaking hands. To keep you safe and sound no matter what. Regardless of your age, size, build, or strength.

I must warn you: Simple as they are, these methods can be fatal. They must be. Otherwise, they would be valueless to you when you need them the most.

Hold them for that key emergency moment when it's either you or him. Then—wham!

When you're out with your family or friends, it's great to know that you are covered. If you can't avoid trouble, at least avoid losing.

I'll be glad to send you a Review Digest of the Peaceful Man's Way to look over with no obligation whatsoever. In plain language, it reveals all the benefits and applications of my material.

In addition, the Review Digest offers you a special plan to test the Peaceful Man's Way for one whole month without risking one cent.

It could turn out to be the biggest bargain of your life. Just one use at the right time and you'll be miles ahead. Unscathed, with your pride intact. And alive!

For prompt shipment, simply mail the coupon with only \$1. My unconditional money-back guarantee protects your investment. Later, my Peaceful Man's Way will protect you.

Return the coupon and I'll prove it to you. At my sole risk—not yours.

Tom Kane

Peaceful Man, 15 West 38th St., N.Y., N.Y. 10018

"THE ARGUMENT SETTLER" —MY FREE GIFT TO YOU!

Whether or not you later keep the Peaceful Man's Way, I want you to have "The Argument Settler" as my personal gift.

This marvelous, works-every-time maneuver ends any fight automatically. So effective and so easy, a 5-year old can bring a 6-foot bully to his knees, begging for mercy—instantly.

You can do it. No skill needed. I'll enclose details on how to get your copy when I send your Review Digest. Whatever you decide after the month's trial, it's yours to keep with my compliments.

Peaceful Man
15 West 38th St., Dept. B-106
New York, N.Y. 10018

\$1 enclosed.

Rush the Review Digest describing the Peaceful Man's Way and my free gift offer. No further obligation.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

I THOUGHT I was dreaming about a ringing telephone. Unfortunately, I was not. It was actually ringing. Surely my clock had stopped because the big hand was on the 12 and the little hand was on the nine. Unfortunately the second hand was moving, which generally means the clock is working. Okay, so it's nine (quick glance to see if the sun is shining), yes, in the morning and the phone is ringing. And it's my well-deserved day off.

This better be important. I picked up the receiver, but I guess I forgot to say hello or something. "Stu," the voice said, "are you there, did I wake you?"

"No, no," I said in a voice that hardly concealed the fact that I had been sleeping. "I've been up for hours." I accidentally knocked the telephone off my dresser.

"Stu, Stu, are you awake," the voice said. "This is Natalie. Peter has to speak to you. It's very important."

The worst thing my boss' secretary ever did to me in the past was bring in sour milk for the coffee. Unless this was very important, the curdling coffee could be shoved right down the list.

"Stu," she said. "I'm putting Peter on."

"Stu," the voice was much deeper, so I figured Peter King, the editor of the magazine was on the line. "You've got to come in."

"What?"

"The deadline for **INSIDE WRESTLING** is the day after tomorrow and there's a story that has to be done that I think

(Continued on page 54)

New from NRI! 25" color TV that tunes by computer, programs an entire evening's entertainment.

DIAGONAL

Just part of NRI's training in servicing TV, stereo systems, video tape and disc players, car and portable radios.

Only NRI home training prepares you so thoroughly for the next great leap forward in TV and audio... digital systems. Already, top-of-the-line TV's feature digital tuning, computer programming is appearing, and new digital audio recording equipment is about to go on the market.

NRI is the only home study school to give you the actual "hands-on" training you need to handle servicing problems on

tomorrow's electronic equipment. Because only NRI includes this designed-for-learning, 25" diagonal color TV with electronic tuning, built-in digital clock, and computer programmer as part of your training. With this advanced feature, you can pre-program an entire evening's entertainment.

Designed-for-learning Concept

The color TV you build as part of NRI's Master Course looks, operates, and performs like the very finest commercial sets. But behind that pretty picture is a unique designed-for-learning chassis. As you assemble it, you perform meaningful experiments. You even introduce defects, troubleshoot and correct them as you would in actual practice. And you end up with a magnificent, big-picture TV.

Build Stereo, Test Instruments

That's just a start. You demonstrate basic principles on the unique NRI Discovery Lab®, then apply them as you assemble a fine AM/FM stereo, complete with speakers. You also learn as you build your own test instruments, including a 5" triggered sweep oscilloscope, CMOS digital frequency counter, color bar generator, and transistorized volt-ohm meter. Use them for learning, use them later for professional servicing of TV and audio equipment.

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You need no previous experience of any kind. Starting with the basics, exclusive "bite-size" lessons cover subjects thoroughly, clearly, and concisely. "Hands-on" experiments reinforce theory for better comprehension and retention. And your personal NRI instructor is always available for advice and help. You'll be prepared to work with stereo systems, car radios, record and tape players, transistor radios, short-wave receivers, PA systems,

musical instrument amplifiers, electronic TV games, even video tape recorders and tape or disc video playbacks.



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THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

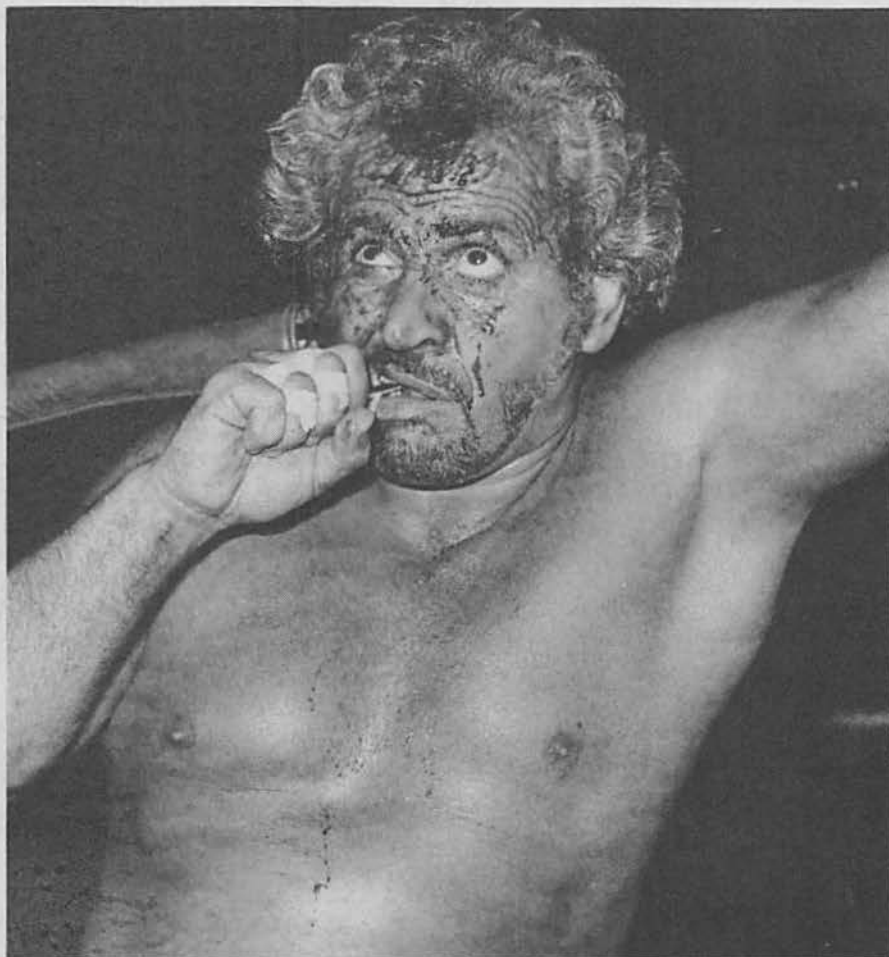
The Sheik has perfected a terrifying maneuver that is even more dangerous than his famed fire-throwing!

Reliable sources in Detroit insist The Sheik is almost ready to use his frightening maneuver for the first time in a professional match. Somehow, the mystic Arab wildman has learned to shoot a small amount of radioactivity from his fingertips into his opponent's face! For those who may not be familiar with radioactivity, let me just say that the end result of absorbing such rays would be crippling, to say the least.

The Sheik predictably has nothing to say on the subject. His interpreter, who answered my call in Detroit, had a brief statement.

"The Sheik does not wish to comment on the rumors circulating concerning his use of radioactivity. He will say, however, that when the time comes, all the people will find out whether or not the rumors are true. As Sheik has said before, he is capable of many mystical movements that the average human cannot comprehend. Thus, anything is possible."

The potential of the Sheik's power, assuming he is able to shoot radioactivity, is staggering. He would easily



Many have questioned the Sheik's sanity throughout the years. His ability to create fire in his fingertips has mystified fans, wrestlers, and federation officials who must decide whether he is suitable to remain in the sport. Now reports saying that he has acquired the ability to cast radiation from his fingertips has caused quite a stir.

gain control of the wrestling world within weeks. No one would dare enter the same ring. But let us not concede our great sport to this deranged animal yet. There are ways to stop him.

"I can't speak for the other two major alliances, but I know that we would probably immediately ban the use of

such a sadistic maneuver," NWA spokesman said.

"We've run into The Sheik before, and I don't doubt that he could do it. I don't know *how* he could do it, but no one knows how he throws fire either. Let's just hope we never have to make a ruling on this matter."

(Continued on page 56)



Deluxe Alien Mask
\$9.95
Ugly enough to be right out of one of the latest sci-fi horror flicks. "Creaks" horrible "close encounters" "Deep set eyes, protruding veins, weird ears, nose & skin. Covers full head. Soft vinyl clings when worn."
4623 Alien Mask \$9.95



4-In-One Pocket Knife
Includes: slotted pointed blade, scissors, bottle opener & nail file. All blades made of stainless steel. Each conveniently folds into rich-looking pocket size leatherette case. 7 1/2" long when closed.
EB407, 4-In-One Knife \$5.95



Secret Book Safe
Looks like attractively bound book but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewelry, money, etc. hidden away. 4 x 6 x 1 1/2".
4012 Book Safe \$2.79



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Small hand held instrument that simulates electric shock. Shake hands or touch someone and it gives off spine-tingling shock!
2955 Joy Buzzer \$9.95



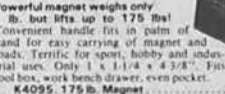
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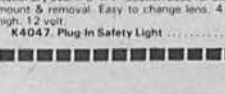
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Powerful beam flashlight. Loud, ear-piercing siren. For protection, fun, heavy duty. Uses std. battery.
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Realistic. Terrifying glass. Slimy feel. Guaranteed big & especially scary.
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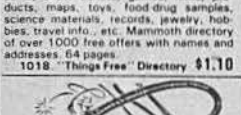
Dribble Glass
Looks like ordinary glass. Design is cut all the way through. When tipped to drink, liquid flows thru concealed holes. Watch them dribble when they drink.
2764 Dribble Glass \$1.39



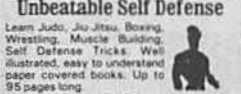
Pocket Spy Telescope
Powerful, yet fits pocket like pen. Magnifies several times original size. Brings distant objects closer. Attractive finish.
6724 Spy Scope \$2.25



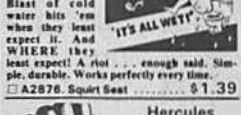
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Sportsman's Hunting Knife
7 1/2" open 4" closed
Features special safety lock to prevent accidental closing. Razor sharp tempered steel blade. Smooth opening. Beautiful rose wood grained handle. Rustproof. Convenient pocket size. Perfect for all sorts of outdoor chores, hunting, fishing, camping.
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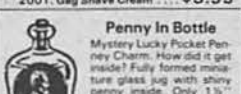
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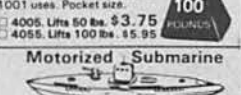
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Gallons of foam rush out & you can't stop it! Foam! Foam! Foam everywhere! Ordinary looking 6-oz. shave cream can, but one press means one big mess. Nearly fills entire bathroom. Unbelievable. Great water to "cream" a friend. Use water soluble. Won't stain.
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Mystery Lucky Pocket Penny Charm. How did it get inside? Fully formed miniature glass pig with penny inside. Only 1 1/2" high.
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Lifts up to 100 Pounds SOLE STEEL! Tested & proven on steel blocks. GO TREASURE HUNTING. Do amazing stunts. 1001 uses. Pocket size.
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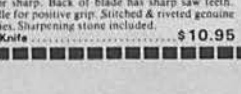
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Play favorite songs by ear, notes or numbers in minutes. Fine quality pocket harmonica with full professional range. 24 bronze reeds. Nickel plated cover. With fast, proven instruction booklet including song collection.
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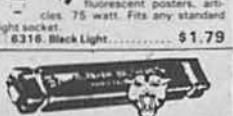
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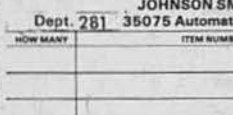
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Open close with one hand! Secret pressure opens it automatically. Looks like a broken pen. Mystery. To those who do not know the secret. Many examine for hours without learning how to open.
8416 Mystery Knife \$2.75



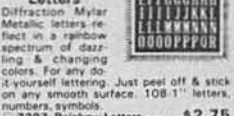
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22 printed signs & 2 blanks (fit in any message). Includes: idiot. Learn To Drive. Out Tailgating. I Love You, Single. Follow Me. 16 more.
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When they borrow your expensive looking ball point pen it causes the sparks to fly. They push the button and THEY GET ZAPPED! The looks and feel of finest pen on market. Wear in pocket or leave on desk, ready for your next "victim". Never fails. Teaches "students" a lesson. Expertly made by West German craftsmen. Deluxe in looks & results. With replaceable battery inside.
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Great way to break up a serious game of pool. Looks like regular ball until your unsuspecting victim hits it. Wanders erratically all over table with strange "English" you've never seen. Regulation size.
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Diffraction Mylar. Metallic letters reflect in a rainbow spectrum of dazzling & changing colors. For any do-it-yourself lettering. Just peel off & stick on any smooth surface. 108 1/2" letters, numbers, symbols.
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan
Shocket



Dan Shocket predicts that the Samoans will easily defeat Ivan Putski and Tito Santana for the WWF tag team championship and eventually be recorded as the greatest team of all time.

IF THERE WAS any justice in the world, Lou Albano would be one of the most respected men in sports. Like Tom Landry in football or Earl Weaver in baseball, Albano would be recognized as a genius when it comes to understanding man's physical abilities. That's if there was any justice in the world.

Unhappily, Albano never gets that deserved respect. People dismiss his brilliant strategies as "dirty wrestling." Even though his tag teams have won the

WWF title many times, people refuse to acknowledge Albano's incredible wrestling intelligence. Today, he appears to be leading his new tag team, the Samoans, to championship victory. Once again, the fans will probably say, "Albano cheated."

I suppose it's asking too much of the fans' intelligence to appreciate the Samoans. This may be Albano's best tag team, ranking with the Valiants and Executioners. They move with a furious grace

that renders opponents helpless. While the Samoans seem to rely on brute force, Albano has actually directed their enormous strength to the best possible advantage. The best strategies are those that are almost invisible. Only looking back on it can

"It once bothered me. I know I'm the best. My strategies are studied and copied by everyone. Putski and Santana won the title using a strategy I developed for the Executioners. Chief Jay Strongbow copies Jim Valiant so much, I tell Jim to sue the bum for plagiarism. I've changed the face of tag team wrestling forever.

"The Samoans are probably my greatest achievement. Some may prefer the Mongols. Others will always remain fans of the Executioners. Both were great tag teams. My reputation as the greatest manager of all would be secure if I only managed them. But I'm getting better and better, smarter and smarter. The Samoans

(Continued on page 46)

"...OH MY GOSH! I GOT RIPPED OFF!"

At least I'll bet that's what you'll think when the mailman hands you a thin envelope containing the material I'm going to sell you for \$10.00!!

No, that's NOT a misprint. I both believe and HOPE that you'll think you've "been had" when you first lay your hands on my latest anemic-looking book (it's less than 1/4" thick, and will take only an hour or so to read).

Why? Because if you tend to judge a book by its cover — when you see this one, you'll feel cheated and say to yourself, "Whaaaaat? Ten bucks for that?!" But then, when you start reading it, see the facts, the figures — the substantiation — the proof — the unheard of guarantee — you will exclaim, "WOW! Only ten dollars for this? Why it's worth ten times that! A hundred times that — a thousand times that — *ten thousand times that!*" (in fact, that's exactly what I GUARANTEE it to be worth; Ten thousand times your purchase price: \$100,000.00!! — more on this later).

Perhaps you know me; I am Dean F. V. Du Vall. For the past 21 years I have devised countless sound methods for ordinary people to carve out chunks of wealth for themselves from home-operated enterprises, most of which can be started and successfully operated by mail. I've written nearly 20 self-enrichment/money-making books, some of which are practically household words: "50 Roads To Riches," "The Dynamics of Yes," "Du Vall Method For Acquiring Great Mail Order Wealth," "Blueprint For Financial Success" and many others.

I am the director emeritus of the famous World-Wide Mail Order Millionaires club, and the editor of the monthly DAX MONEY-MAKER CONFIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER, one of the most respected and honored business opportunity research periodicals in the world. All of my ventures have been highly successful (thank you!) and today I head three publishing firms.

Somewhere along the way, I literally stumbled onto a veritable goldmine-type concept that I had previously overlooked. (Probably because it's so obvious and simple). Get this: Anyone, young, old, rich, poor, smart, ignorant or what-have-you, can do it. It requires very little start-up capital, and little or nothing to keep it going — indefinitely. It involves a specific product that not only is ultimately FREE to you, but you are actually PAID to get it! Yet you stock no merchandise. (No, this is NOT a drop-ship deal of any kind.) It is a REPEAT business in a very big way. Most every customer comes back for more (I've had them BEGGING for more — with cash in hand!)

What this unique business is NOT:

- ✓ No sex or off-color stuff
- ✓ No "information selling" scheme
- ✓ No chain letter junk
- ✓ No positive-thinking, occult or mystical stuff
- ✓ No problems, no hassles, no unhappy customers

What it IS:

- ✓ 100% legal and ethical — indeed, PRESTIGIOUS
- ✓ Clean, above board, respectable
- ✓ Potentially the most profitable home (or office) based business in existence
- ✓ A FACTUAL means to FAST riches
- ✓ Nothing like you've EVER seen advertised anywhere before!

This is so exciting, so fantastic, that I am bursting at the seams to tell you the essence of it right here, right now — but I'll be darned if I'll give it away!

No, it'll cost you ten smackers.

And if you buy it, and are a religious person, it wouldn't surprise me if you get down on your knees and "give thanks" after you've read it through, because this could be the absolute ultimate answer to your quest for wealth, personal fulfillment and general happiness.

Sure that sounds corny — UNTIL YOU EXPERIENCE THE SENSATION!

And now, I'll put my money where my mouth is, and that's right here:

GUARANTEE

If you do exactly as I suggest in the full explanation of this exclusive fortune-building concept (working at it part or full time - makes no difference), and if after 12 months of doing that you fail to gross \$100,000.00 (that's one hundred thousand dollars) I will issue you my personal certified check for \$1,000.00. Period.

Dean F. V. Du Vall

And if you're wondering whether I can BACK UP that guarantee, read this excerpt from a letter I just received:

Dear Mr. Du Vall: "In its continual effort to extend coverage of the top companies in the United States, DUN & BRADSTREET is again compiling the MILLION DOLLAR DIRECTORY and our records indicate that your listing should be continued in our forthcoming edition." —W. H. Mantz, Editor

There is no more I can say to the smart reader of this advertisement. He knows what to do next!

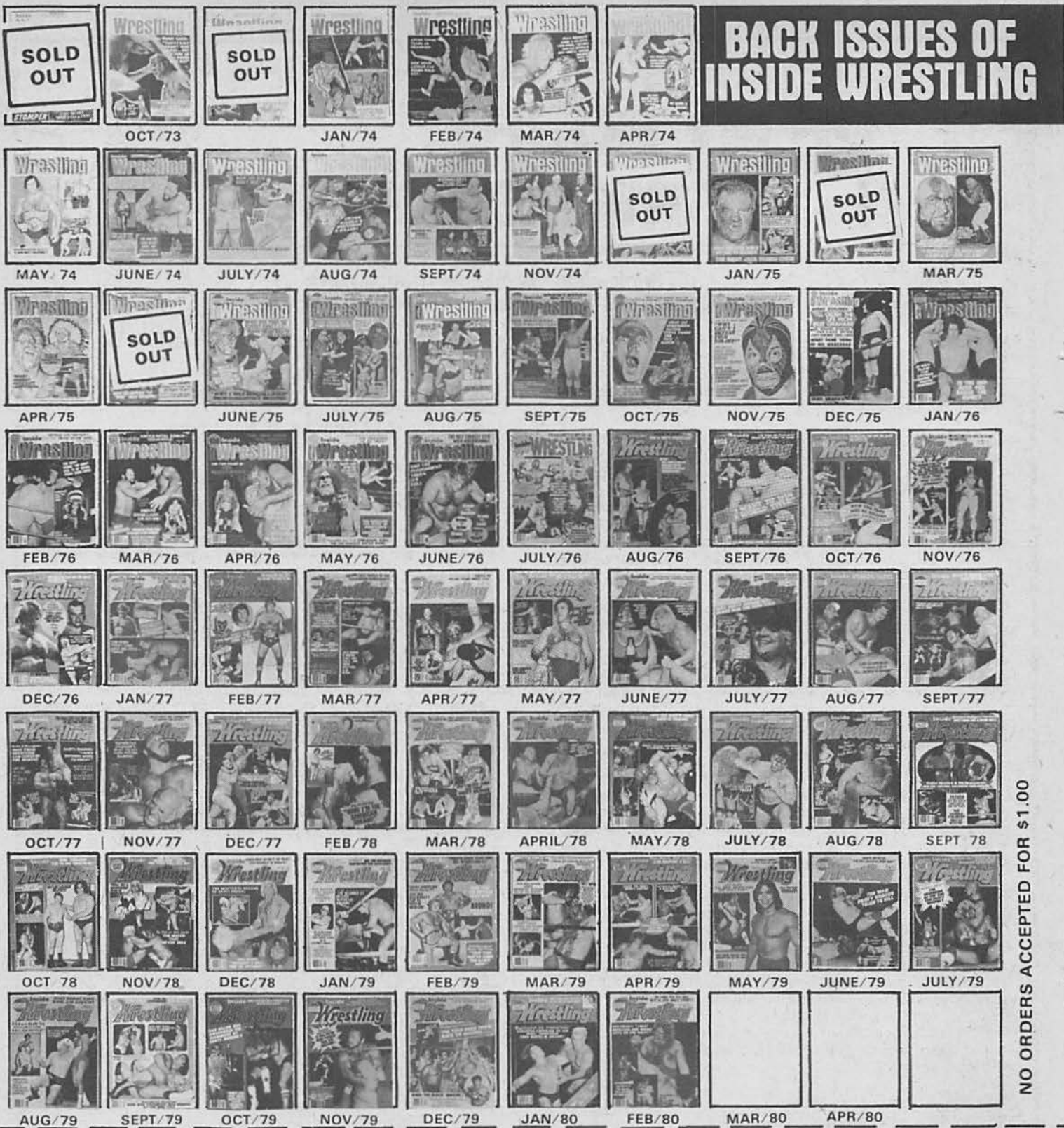
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Dean, I find it very hard to believe everything I've just read, but for ten bucks I'm certainly not going to risk missing out on THIS deal! Here is the \$10.00 Rush me, "Don't Judge THIS book by its cover (or you'll be sorree!)" by return mail postpaid.

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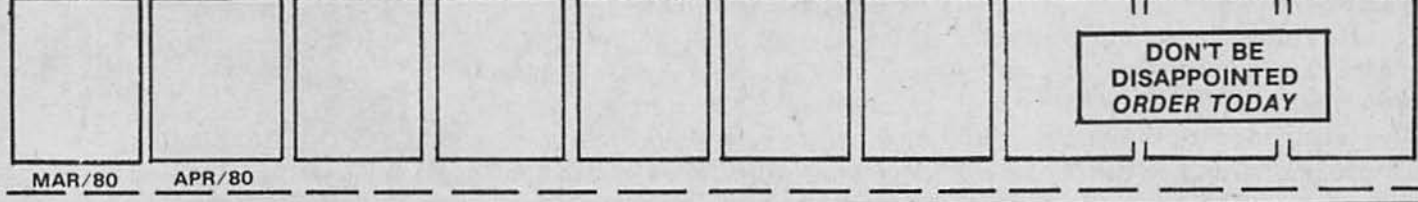
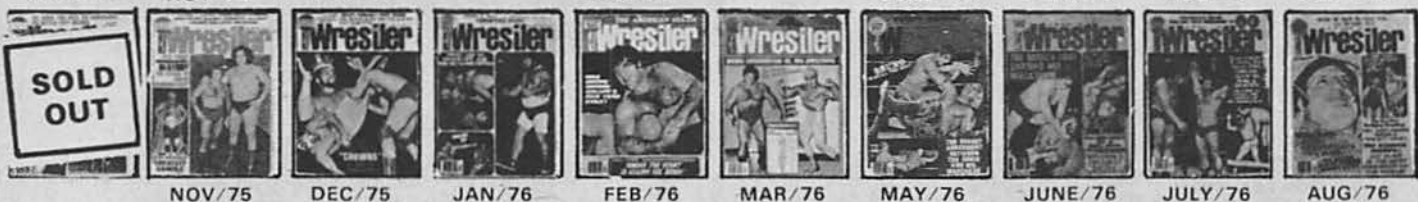
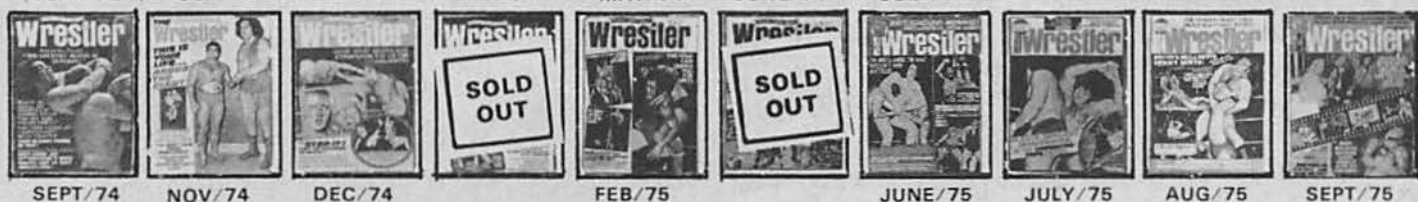
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THE WRESTLER

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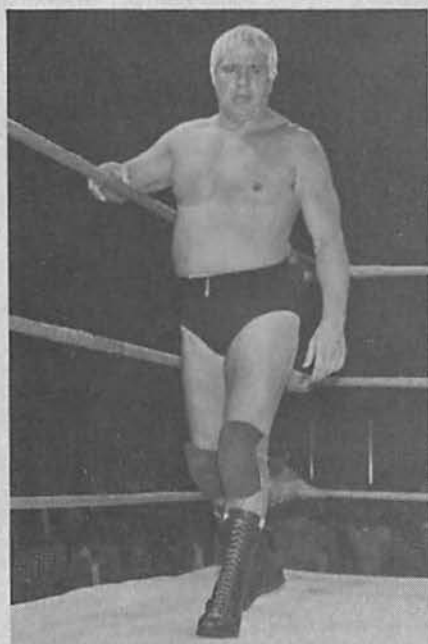
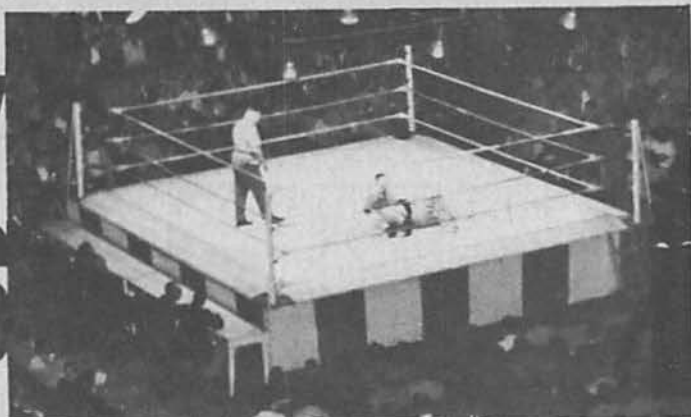
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SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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Reader Allan Meltzer hopes that Pat Patterson's life will be permanently changed for the better after his experience with Lou Albano and the Grand Wizard.

HOPE PAT HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON

This letter is for Pat Patterson. Mr. Patterson, I hope you have learned your lesson with tying yourself to dirty wrestlers. You have been hurt and hurt badly by the Grand Wizard and Captain Lou Albano. I hope you learned your lesson enough to change your wrestling style.

I know that it won't be easy, but that's why you were hurt. I don't think you have a choice anymore. I hope you change and change real soon.

ALLAN MELTZER
Bellmore, NY

NOTHING WILL RIP THEM APART

No jealousy will rip Tito Santana and Ivan Putski apart as you said in "Ivan Putski and Tito Santana: Will Jealousy Rip Them Apart?" (February/1980).

Tito has a good head and he knows that no one man can win the tag team title without a partner. But he does know that one man could easily lose the title. Santana and Putski say the title means a lot to them. If it means that much, then there can be no jealousy between them that would rip them apart.

With a super team like that, jealousy has no chance. With luck, Tito Santana and Ivan Putski will be WWF champs for a long time.

SISSY HEDRICK
Jefferson, GA

HEENAN'S GOONS

I must get this off my chest any way possible. I feel Bobby Heenan and his garbage is a disgrace to wrestling. Heenan's a coward who raves about his astuteness as a manager, then his nuts use every cheap and unethical antic to injure people they can't beat fairly. Killer Karl Kox is an unstable nut, Ladd is a no brain braggart and a poor excuse for a man. The latest addition is an overweight ninny named Tom Shaft.

A combination like this can never earn the respect of the

people, no matter how many belts they acquire. I don't see how people tolerate it! This is a situation where decent guys like Tommy Rich and others get the short end of the stick while villains win matches and belts.

It's time for the public who supports wrestling to voice their grievances. Heenan's rampages should not be tolerated much longer. The gutless dupe is famous for interfering in matches his bums can't win.

LINDA WILLIAMS
Montgomery, AL



Linda Williams speaks for the masses when she calls Bobby Heenan a coward and a disgrace to wrestling. She will be happy to learn that Bobby has returned to the AWA.

SUPER MALICIOUS NO MATCH

It's been a long time since I purchased a wrestling magazine and I just had to say that I'm sorry I missed out on your

(Continued on page 58)

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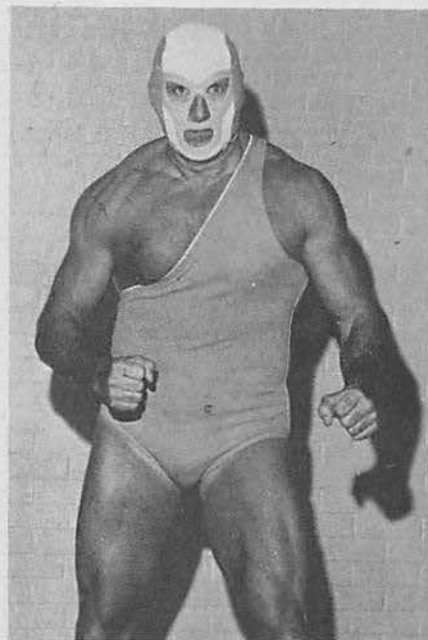
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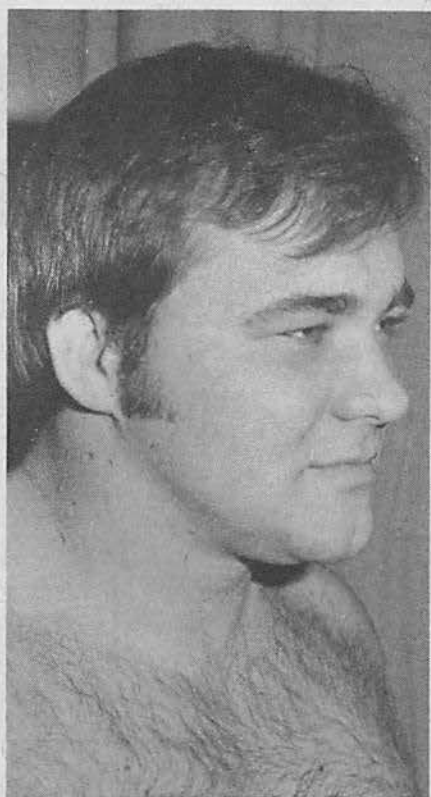
Due to lies told to me by a rulebreaker (whose name I can't reveal), I printed an incorrect item in one of my columns. I wrongly said that the popular AVENGER had been teaming with the hated ASSASSIN. It is not true. I apologize to AVENGER for ever believing he could stoop so low as to team with one of the sport's most maniacal rulebreakers. As for ASSASSIN, I have the feeling he tried to spread the rumor just to put a blot on the career of AVENGER. I will never trust the



AVENGER

source I received the information from again.

Here's some news that's really hard to understand: Young LARRY ZBYSZKO, the protege of BRUNO SAMMARTINO, says he wants to wrestle Bruno! There is no hatred involved on Larry's part as far as we have heard thus far. He just wants to wrestle Bruno. "I feel funny about this," says Bruno. "I don't want to



LARRY ZBYSZKO

wrestle Larry. He is like a brother to me." We hear that Larry will pursue the matter until Bruno finally relents and gives Larry the match.

JIM BRUNZELL has regained the Mid-Atlantic heavyweight championship from RAY STEVENS. Rather than just going after Brunzell's title at the moment, Stevens seems to be more concerned with finding a tag team partner to help him win the NWA tag team belts from RICK STEAMBOAT and JAY YOUNG-BLOOD. At the present time Stevens is trying to form a duo with hated GREG VALENTINE . . . MASKED SUPERSTAR says that MR. WRESTLING II does not deserve a shot at the Georgia championship. "He hasn't beaten anyone but a bunch of stiffs!"

Superstar claims. "After he beats someone of distinction, he can have a shot at my title."

DON DIAMOND is looking great in his Florida outings . . . GARY HART took his man MARK LEWIN to Detroit to challenge THE SHEIK . . . HULK HOGAN says that he will devour BOB BACKUND in less than 10 minutes when they clash . . . IVAN KOLOFF and ALEXIS SMIRNOFF hold the Georgia tag team belts . . . BILL DUNDEE and JERRY LAWLER are far from settling their feud . . . CRUSHER moves into AWA number one contender position after a controversial victory over champion NICK BOCKWINKEL. Nick kept the belt but absorbed one of the most severe beatings of his life.

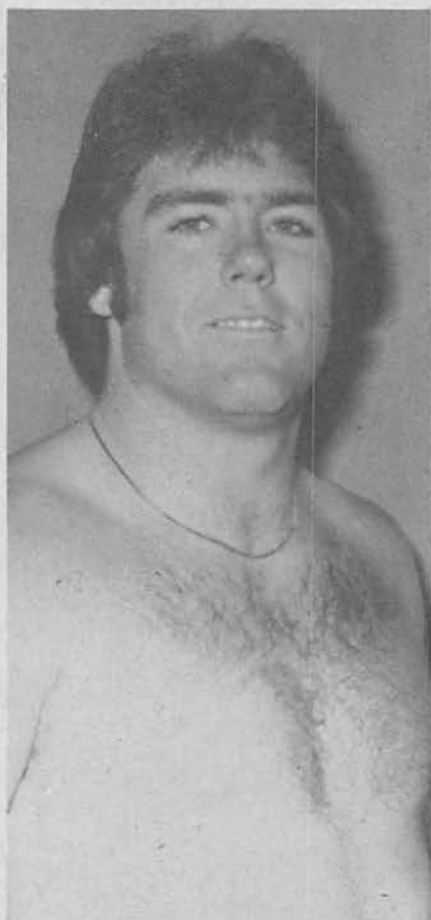
OLE ANDERSON is at war with former friend and partner ERNIE LADD. Anderson now teams with scientific wrestlers regularly and the Georgia fans have taken quite a liking to him



CRUSHER

N' NEWS

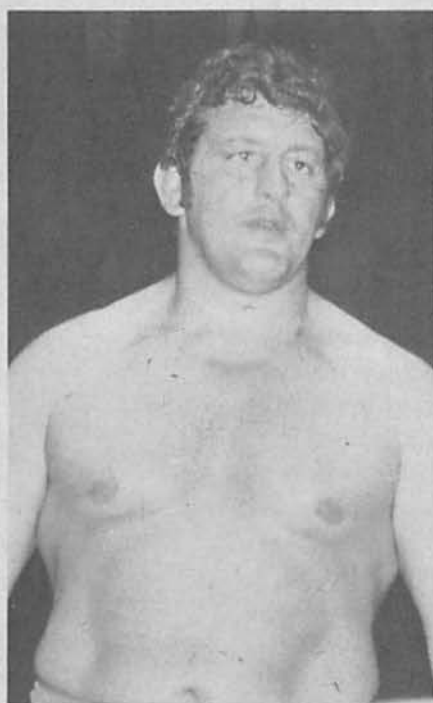
Bill Apter
reporting...



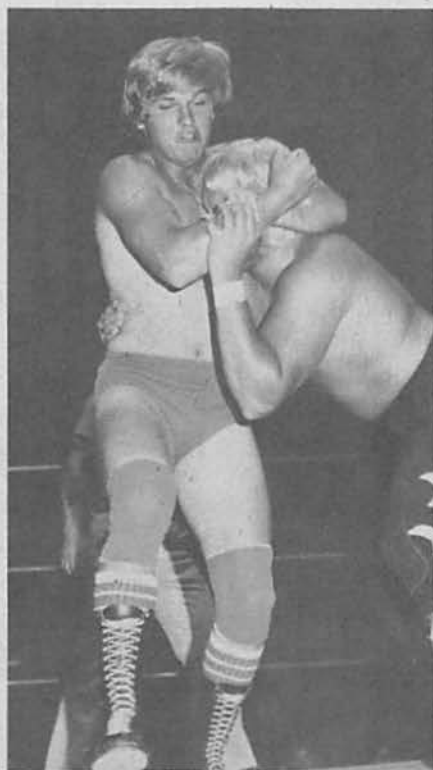
TULLY BLANCHARD

... RIP HAWK and DALE VALENTINE are teaming in Texas ... TOM JONES is chasing the Southwest title currently held by TULLY BLANCHARD. Tully has adopted rulebreaker tactics of late.

J.J. DILLION says his protege', KILLER BROOKS, wants to wrestle NWA champion HARLEY RACE ... JESSE VENTURA claims that he is not satisfied with his AWA matches. "All they throw me are losers and more losers," he says. "I am tired of beating up VERNE GAGNE. I am tired of beating up GREG GAGNE. And I am tired of beating up BILLY ROBINSON. Give me some competition or else!"



BILLY ROBINSON



EDDIE GILBERT

Blond GINO HERNANDEZ says his new name—legally—will be "Gorgeous Gino." "It fits me so well," he sighs ... JOHNNY RIVERA is looking good after recovering from an injury in a brutal WWF match ... RIC FLAIR says that he and RICK STEAMBOAT have worked out some new maneuvers to help cripple GREG VALENTINE. I bet you never thought you'd read that!

NIKOLAI VOLKOFF has invaded Florida and is concentrating on getting a match



NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

against Florida champion MANNY FERNANDEZ ... EDDIE GILBERT has won 35 straight matches in the past few weeks ... TED Di BIASE is doing well in Oklahoma ... Coco butt expert BOBO BRAZIL is looking forward to returning to New York soon ... MIL MASCARAS wants to bring his brother DOS CARAS to the WWF.

That's all for now. See you next time! □



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

PORTLAND, OREGON: Nothing like a warm fire, a cool drink, and an old friend to keep away the damp Northwest winters. Had a chance to visit with a good friend, Stan Stasiak. Up here in the lovely woods, Stasiak is a popular figure. He's a local boy. But once Stasiak ventures beyond this area, fans tend to boo him. We talked a liter's worth about that strange attitude. Stasiak insists he's still the most aggressive wrestler around and can't really account for the almost violent disparity. I can. Stasiak is an extreme sort of fellow. It's either-or with him, generally *or*. He doesn't know how to ease up. Stasiak goes full throttle all of the time. He's been known to pulverize an opponent, then offer him a hand out of the ring. That's how he is. A tough gentleman. But fans don't understand his complexities. Should the public ever see Stasiak for what he truly is, a rough, talented man with a good heart, "The Man" might become one of the most popular wrestlers. Everywhere.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: Fans here were teased by Mil Mascaras' brief appearance. I'm here for the warm weather. Got caught in a howling snowstorm up north and spent a night in this remote cabin. Just me, an old logger named Joe, and a bottle of Scotch. Spent the first hour warily staring until we realized we had something in common. Wrestling. The old guy was a wrestling fan. Soon as I told him what I do for a living, he went berserk. Started pumping me for info on all the guys. Learned he was a big Victor Rivera fan. When I told him what a dirty fink Rivera had become in the WWF, Joe started screaming and swearing. Guess when you love a wrestler, you'll never accept them turning bad. Worst part, it was Joe's bottle. Also took the radio into his room. Spent the remainder of the night humming big band songs and watching the snow cover my window.



MIL MASCARAS

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK

TAMPA, FLORIDA: Bad Bad Leroy Brown looks like a pile of uncooked pumpnickel dough. He's the hottest thing in Florida now, though I wasn't impressed. He moves like yesterday's orange marmalade, if you get my drift. His manager, Sir Oliver Humperdink, who might have a chin under his beard, knew how I felt about Brown. In spite of that, Humperdink brings Brown over to my lounge chair. There I am, drying out and squinting at the bikinis, when this bald galoop grunts at me. Humperdink shakes my shoulder. I don't look up, merely raise my empty glass, thinking it's the waiter. Brown takes the glass and breaks it, then eats the shards. When I asked if he could sing Mr. Bojangles, he tipped over my lounge chair. Still puzzled, I asked Bozo and Boffo what their story was. Humperdink says he's tired of creeps like me insulting his wrestler. I say I don't like people eating my glass before I've gotten the olive, and

stood, preparing to leave. Brown blocks my path. Trouble was brewing. Apparently Brown hadn't heard of my courage, war hero and all that. Nor was he prepared for my next move. I screamed for help, drawing several waiters to my side. A potentially ugly confrontation in which Brown would have been soundly whipped was aborted. Still insist he's a bum.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Sitting idly in my apartment one eveing and flicked on the old television. Suddenly, I'm greeted with wrestling from Argentina. If you fans have never seen *Lucho Libre* from Argentina, you're missing something. My personal favorite is Pipino the Clown. An obvious fan hero, as much for his style as for the balloons he gives out, Pipino exemplified the dignified manner in which Argentinian wrestlers comport. Definitely something to see. □

HOTSEAT

HULK HOGAN: "CRIPPLING, DESTROYING, WINNING . . . THAT'S WHAT I DO BEST!"

NO WRESTLER IN recent memory has excited the public like this hulk of a man. Thousands of adoring letters have poured into our offices. This is unprecedented. But a careful examination of the man shows why he is so popular. His physical dimensions are awesome. Standing 6-8, weighing 300 pounds, all of it muscle. Clear eyes stare back in bemused contempt at a world he believes is rightfully his. Blond hair frames a tanned, handsome face. His swift, powerful strides can cover a ring and smother an opponent. His huge arms can crush a foe into a crippled, helpless hulk. He enjoys destroying opponents. He is the incredible Hulk Hogan.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DAN SHOCKET

- Q:** Sir, welcome to the Hotseat. Rest assured you have a friend here.
- A:** I appreciate that, Dan.
- Q:** Why do you think you're so popular?
- A:** Because I'm wonderful.
- Q:** Could you be more specific?
- A:** I'm wonderful, gorgeous,

strong, smart, tough, mean, great. That enough?

- Q:** For the moment.
- A:** You a wise guy?
- Q:** Yes. How'd you get started in wrestling?
- A:** I've been wrestling for years. Everyone's heard of me. That's why Fred Blassie brought me to the WWF.

“

Take those short, squat ugly dumplings that litter the WWF. A guy like Putski, you think I care what a misshapen goose-head like him says?

”

- Q:** What was the first thing Blassie said to you?
- A:** (Chuckling) Freds said, "How'd you like to bust up some lame pencil-necked geeks and drive around in a Rolls Royce?"
- Q:** Do you find the competition easy?

A: Oh, not that there ain't some awful mean dudes in the WWF. I've taken my licks, mainly 'cause I'm too honest. I don't have to break the rules like the other clods do. They have no talent. I do. I wrestle fair and square and good.

Q: Some would say otherwise.

A: They're jealous. Take those short, squat ugly dumplings that litter the WWF. A guy like Putski, you think I care what a misshapen goose-head like him says? Putski is ugly and jealous 'cause I'm gorgeous. So what he says don't matter one little bit.

Q: Are there any WWF wrestlers you respect?

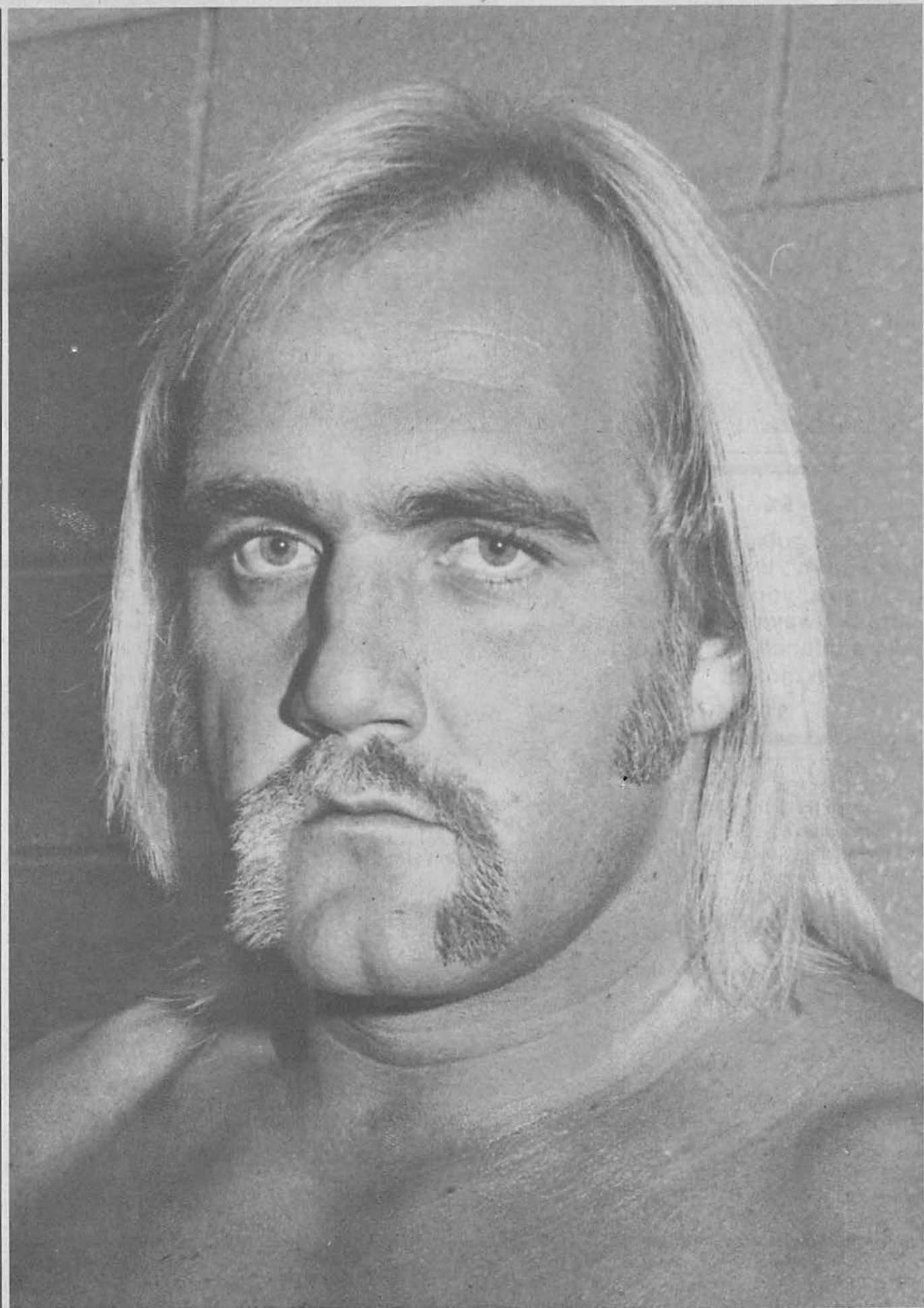
A: Persons or ability?

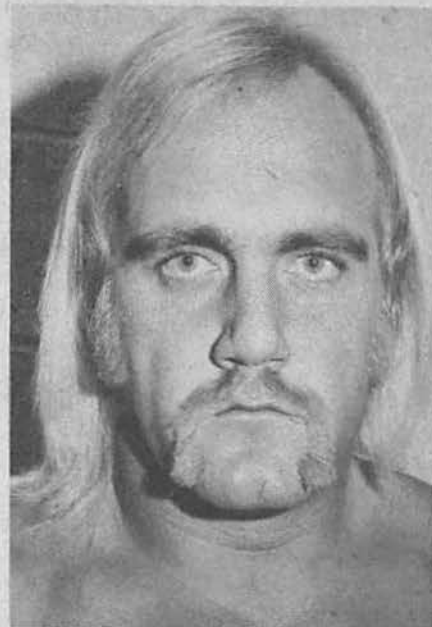
Q: Both. First personalities.

A: Well, I think the Samoans have fine minds and characters. They are tough and know what it's like to rumble in the jungle, so they got guts.

Q: Courage seems to be an important character trait to you.

A: Without guts, a man's got nothin'. If you don't have guts, you're always afraid,





66

Without guts, a man's got nothin'. If you don't have guts, you're always afraid, always scared to take a chance and make a move.

99

always scared to take a chance and make a move. Guts is more than absorbin' a beatin' in the ring. You gotta have the guts to even go out there. You think it's easy to go out there and face some animal like Ted DiBiase?

Q: Then how important are the fans?

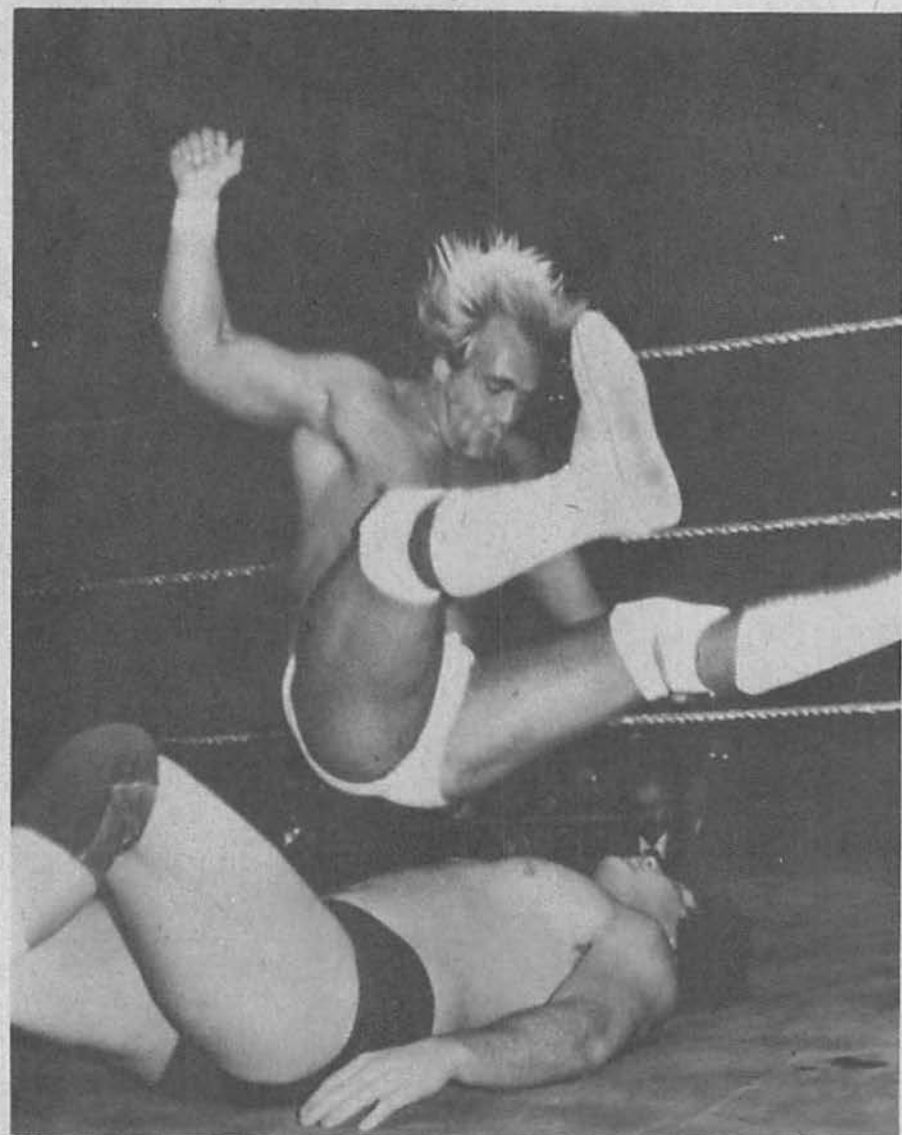
A: The ones that like me are great. The other one percent can sleep with the fishes in Lake Erie.

Q: You're especially popular with the female fans.

A: Naturally. All sex symbols are popular with the ladies.

Q: Is that how you see yourself, as a sex symbol?

A: A part of me, sure. I'm the best-lookin' guy I've ever seen. But I ain't no air-head. I got more goin' for me than big



Hulk Hogan leaps high into the air to increase the pressure of his seat drop on Ted DiBiase's chest (above). The Hulk follows that maneuver with a flying elbow smash (below).



muscles and a beautiful face, deep tan, and all that. I got intelligence and determination.

Q: And that distinguishes you from the rest?

A: Rest of what?

Q: Wrestlers.

A: Oh, yeah.

Q: Whose talents do you respect?

A: Not many. Bockwinkel ain't bad. He's almost as smart as me.

Q: To what do you owe your enormous wit?

A: What?

Q: Your wit, sir.

A: What about it?

Q: Never mind. You'd like Bob Backlund's belt, wouldn't you?

A: Backlund's belt don't mean a cat's whiskers unless it's covered and drippin' with his blood. That's how I want



Hulk Hogan is very concerned with his appearance and he wants to make sure everybody realizes he has large muscles. Hogan's manager, Fred Blassie, points to Hulk's 24-inch arms (above). Hogan takes time out during a match to let the fans know who is number one (below).



Backlund's belt.

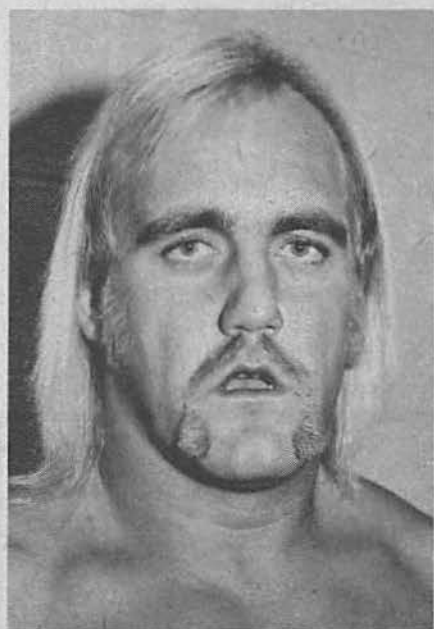
Q: You have some people to get past.

A: Bums. The WWF is full of bums. Freddie tells me not to worry, he's got it all figured out. I'll be champion in six months, maybe sooner if that yellow-bellied Backlund will give me the shot. In fact,

Blassie told me I might not even have to wrestle Backlund to get the belt.

Q: How's that?

A: You know what kind of genius Blassie is. He said Arnold Skoaland, the bobo who's Backlund's manager, called Fred and said that Backlund is so scared to wrestle me, he'll



“
The WWF is full of bums. Freddie tells me not to worry, he's got it all figured out. I'll be champion in six months, maybe sooner if that yellow-bellied Backlund will give me the shot.
”

give me the belt if I promise not to hurt him.

Q: Really?

A: Blassie would never lie to me. He's my friend.

Q: How thoroughly does he prepare you for each match?

A: We go over each thing that might come up without me losin' any spark. You gotta have spark or else you're nothin'.

Q: If you had one line to describe your talents, what would it be?

A: Crippling, destroying winning . . . that's what I do best!

Q: Sir, it has been a pure delight seeing a young man like you eager to win.

A: Dan, I want to give my love to all those wonderful ladies. Keep them cards and letters comin' right in. I read 'em all. □

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

MIAMI, FL By Neal G. Blaustein



DUSTY RHODES
vs.
BAD BAD LEROY BROWN



The event was an exciting Southern heavyweight title match between challenger Dusty Rhodes and champion Bad Bad Leroy Brown. Reluctantly, Rhodes had to use rulebreaking tactics to counter those of Brown. The result was one of Miami's most memorable bloodbaths. More action took place out of the ring than within. At one point the referee got in the middle of the melee and was rendered unconscious for a few minutes. During that time, the intensity of the action brought the arena security guards to the alert. When the referee finally awoke and caught a glimpse of the action, he disqualified both wrestlers.

FORT WORTH, TX By Shawn Hodges



KEVIN VON ERICH
vs.
TIM BROOKS



Metroplex fans received a really special holiday treat when Kevin Von Erich squared off against Tim Brooks. Young Kevin demonstrated a mature courage in consistently eluding Brooks' monstrous swipes. Midway through the bout, Brooks brought a foreign object into the ring. Luckily, Kevin disarmed Brooks and chased the cowardly rulebreaker around the ring before eventually catching him for a well-earned triumph.

OTHER BOUTS: Fritz and David Von Erich topped Mark Lewin and Gary Hart . . . Kerry Von Erich upended Skandor Akbar . . . Sweet Brown Sugar upended Bull Ramos . . . Les Thornton drew with Jonathan Boyd.

NEW YORK, NY By Adam Walker



BOB BACKLUND
vs.
BOBBY DUNCUM



Big Bad Bobby Duncum challenged WWF champion Bob Backlund in a Texas death match. Backlund delighted the cheering crowd with a series of brilliant scientific maneuvers. Duncum saw he couldn't win fairly, so he started cheating. One result was that Duncum tossed Backlund out of the ring. When Backlund managed to get back in, he hit Duncum with his shoulder and covered him for the win.

OTHER BOUTS: NWA champ Harley Race beat a bloodied Dusty Rhodes . . . WWF tag team champs Tito Santana and Ivan Putski stopped Swede Hanson and Victor Rivera . . . Antonio Inoki removed Hussein's Arab's boot . . . Pat Patterson bested Dominic DeNucci

WRESTLING CAPITALS

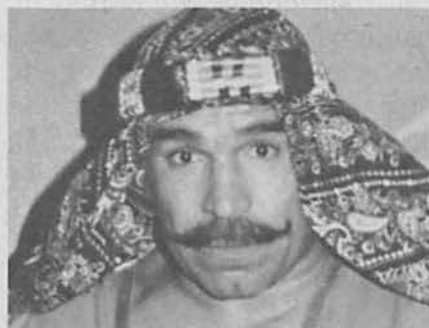


MERIDEN, CT

By Darlene Gagne



IVAN PUTSKI
vs.
HUSSEIN ARAB



An hour time limit bout between Ivan Putski and Hussein Arab turned into a brutal 15-minute war. Hussein greeted Putski with a chokehold which he applied with his robe. Putski seized the robe, tossed it aside and delivered a succession of devastating punches. Shaken, Arab ran out of the ring and back to the dressing room, giving the match to Putski by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Pete Doherty barely beat Frank Williams... Tito Santana put away Dave Darrow... Johnny Rivera and Jose Estrada drew... Bob Duncum brass-knuckled Ted DiBiase.

LOS ANGELES, CA

By David Tornek



MIL MASCARAS
vs.
VICTOR RIVERA



The Main event at Olympic Stadium was a hair vs. mask match between Victor Rivera and Mil Mascaras. If Mascaras lost, he'd have to unmask. If Rivera lost, he'd have to have his hair cut. Since a lot was at stake, the bout was hot and furious. Sensing defeat, Rivera started using all sorts of dirty tricks. But each time, Mascaras overcame the illegal holds and managed to gain a victory. Rivera had his hair cut while the fans cheered.

OTHER BOUTS: Twin Devil drew with Al Madrill... Mando Guerrero and Carlos Mata defeated Bull Ramos and Colosso Colosetti.

MARSHFIELD, WI

By Scott Petterson



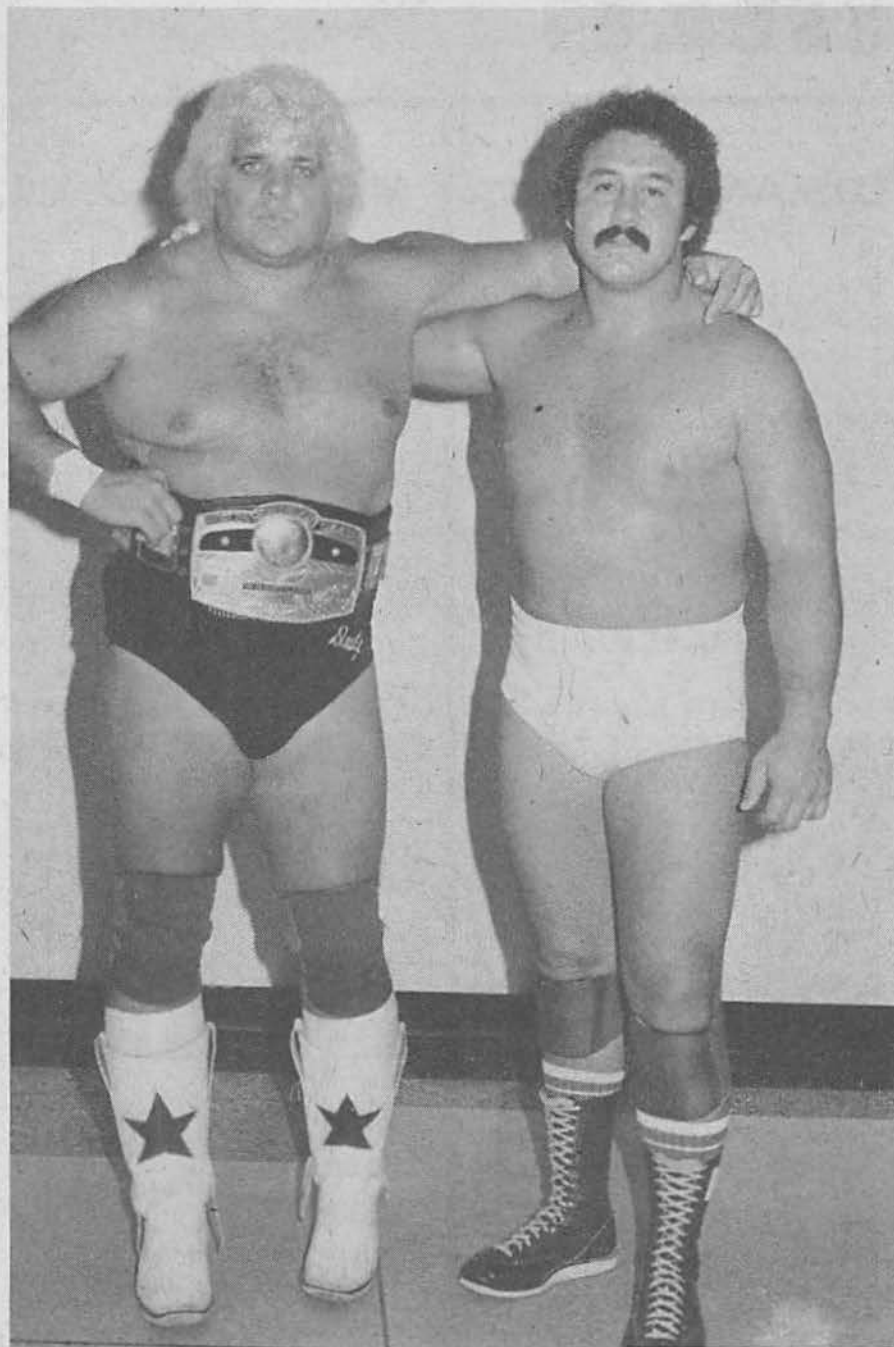
DINO BRAVO
vs.
SUPER DESTROYER II



An exciting night of wrestling culminated in a heated grudge match between sensational Dino Bravo and hated Super Destroyer II. Forced to wrestle without his mask, II was irate at the opening bell. However, Bravo wasn't bothered as he ripped off the tape covering Destroyer's face and whipped the big man from pillar to post to score an impressive victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Lord Al Hays and Super Destroyer III won a very controversial decision over Steve Olsonoski and Buck Zumhoff... Jesse Ventura lost by disqualification to Greg Gagne... Adrian Adonis crowned Ron Ritchie. □

Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez:



Dusty Rhodes poses with up and coming superstar, Manny Fernandez. Rhodes held the NWA title briefly last summer.

DUSTY RHODES AND Manny Fernandez are friends. Sort of. At least they've been buddies since Fernandez broke into Florida wrestling. Dusty was more than willing to help out Fernandez with advice.

"Dusty has always been helpful," said Fernandez. "Any time I've approached him with a problem, Dusty would try and help me out. He's been a good friend."

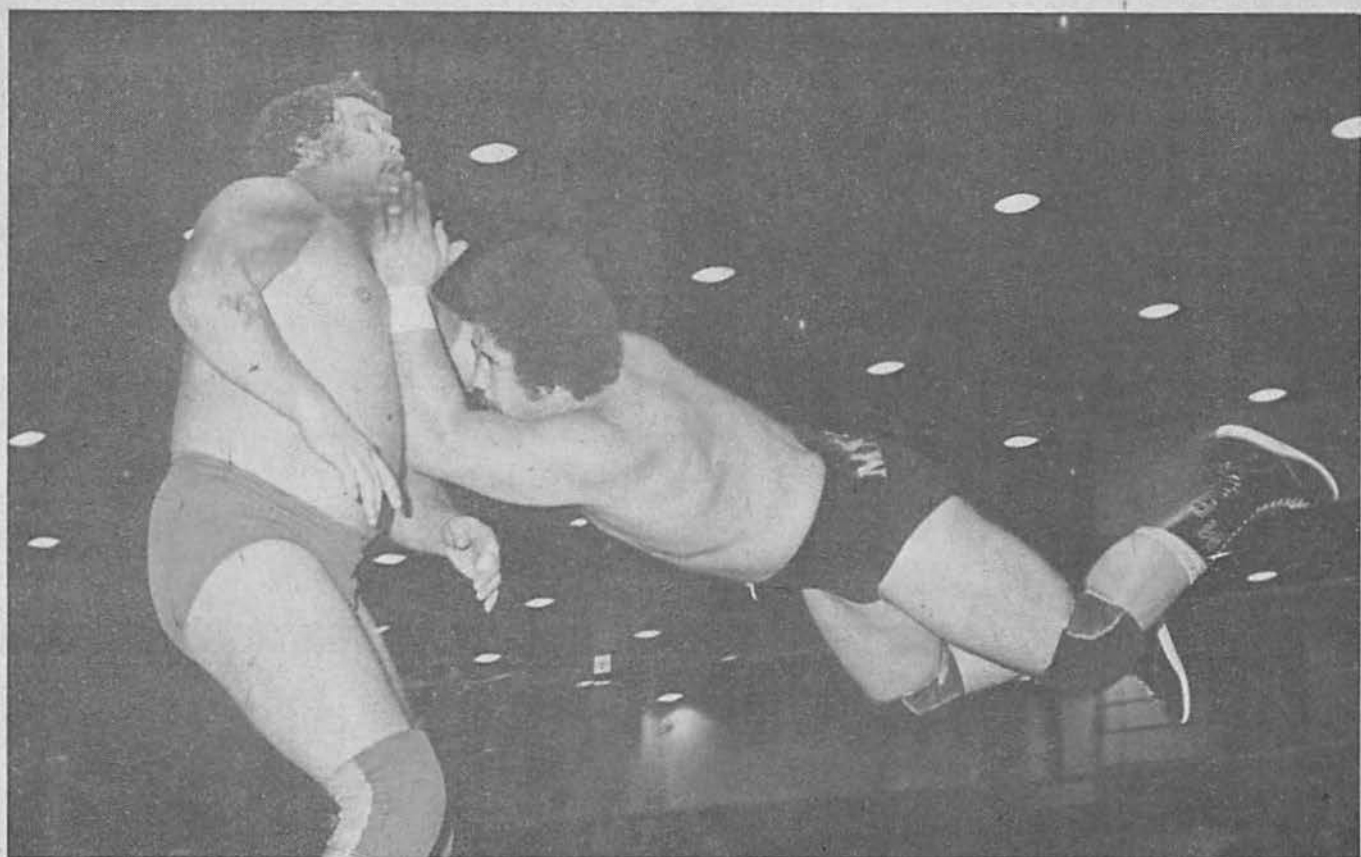
"Manny's been a solid buddy," said Rhodes. "He's a good young talent and I'm mighty proud to have said I've worked with him."

If their comments border on caution, there's a good reason for that. Jealousy and the demands of a fiercely competitive sport have combined to introduce a schism in their relationship. Right now, it's small, but growing.

A source close to both men described the casual remark made by Fernandez which generated this controversy.

"Manny was sitting in the dressing room, toweling himself off," said our source. "He'd just had a rough match against a decent guy, but the guy wasn't anything special. Manny was kinda down and

WILL HARLEY RACE MAKE THEM ENEMIES?



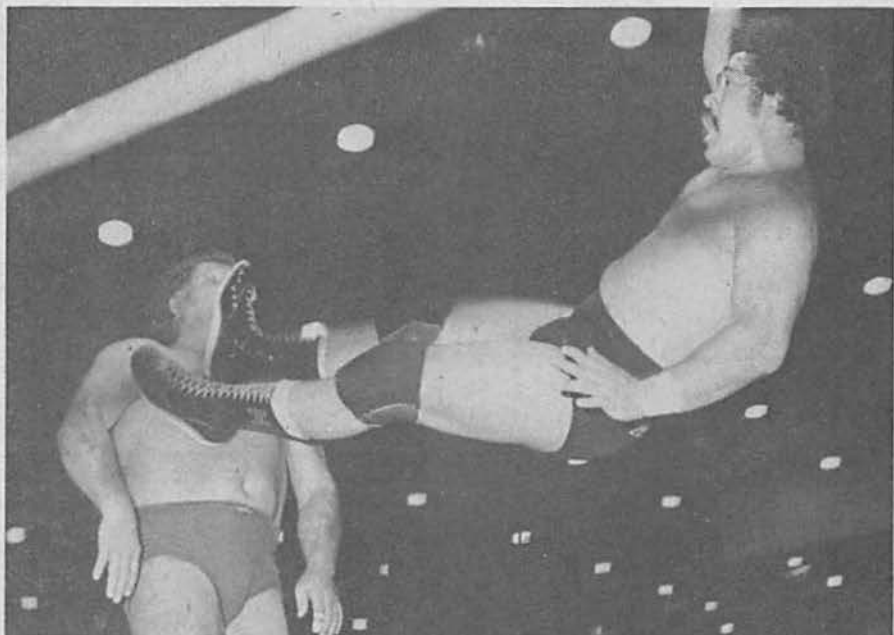
No matter how friendly two wrestlers become, they know the NWA title is more important than any friendship. Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez are friends steamrolling toward hatred. Harley Race, NWA king, is laughing as he fuels the furnace of rage

everyone thought it was cause of the tough match.

"But you can tell when something is eating away at Fernandez. His big brown eyes narrow and seem filled with inner fire," continued the source. "He gets very, very quiet, which is strange because Manny is a very friendly guy. When Manny gets like that, you have to learn to give him room. Eventually, whatever is bugging him comes out."

"So Manny took some deep breaths and said what was on his mind. Now you gotta understand *how* Manny said this. It wasn't with great anger, just irritation, like he felt if he didn't get this off his chest, he'd burst," said the source. "But

(Continued on page 47)



There is no outward hostility between Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez, but Manny does resent the fact that Dusty receives so many NWA title shots. And that resentment is growing. Fernandez sends champion Harley Race reeling with a flying tackle (top) and a dropkick (above).

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters,
And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation

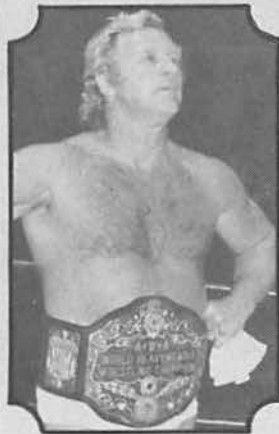


Champion:
BOB BACKLUND



1—KEN PATERA

American Wrestling Association



Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL



1—CRUSHER

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
HARLEY RACE



1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—ANDRE
THE GIANT



2—DUSTY RHODES

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—KEN PATERA



2—TERRY FUNK

Tag Teams



1—THE SAMOANS





2—BOBBY DUNCUM



3—PAT PATTERSON



4—IVAN PUTSKI

5—HULK HOGAN
6—TITO SANTANA
7—LARRY ZBYSZKO
8—TONY ATLAS
9—HUSSEIN ARAB
10—SWEDE HANSON



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—DINO BRAVO



4—GREG GAGNE

5—BILLY ROBINSON
6—JERRY LAWLER
7—SUPER DESTROYER II
8—BILL DUNDEE
9—JESSE VENTURA
10—PAUL ELLERING



2—JIMMY SNUKA



3—MANNY FERNANDEZ



4—JIM BRUNZELL

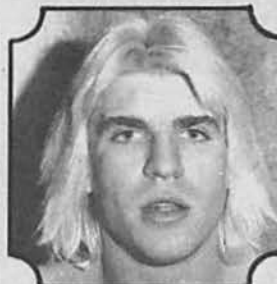
5—MASKED SUPERSTAR
6—KEVIN VON ERICH
7—RIC FLAIR
8—MR. WRESTLING II
9—STEVE KEIRN
10—DEWEY ROBERTSON



3—IVAN PUTSKI



4—MR. WRESTLING II



5—TOMMY RICH

6—RICK STEAMBOAT
7—JACK BRISCO
8—WAHOO McDANIEL
9—DINO BRAVO
10—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW



3—GREG VALENTINE

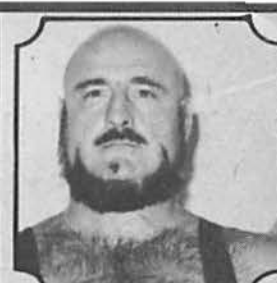


4—JIMMY SNUKA

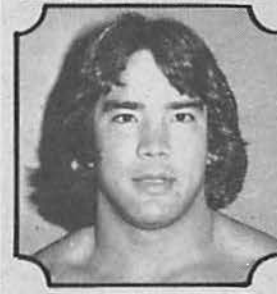


5—HARLEY RACE

6—SPOILER
7—EDDY MANSFIELD
8—ERNIE LADD
9—MASKED SUPERSTAR
10—SUPER DESTROYER II



2—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON



3—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD



4—IVAN PUTSKI & TITO SANTANA
5—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE
6—BRUISER BRODIE & KERRY VON ERICH
7—ALEXIS SMIRNOFF & IVAN KOLOFF
8—PAUL JONES & BARON VON RASCHKE
9—WAYNE FARRIS & LARRY LATHAM
10—TWIN DEVILS

At an age when most men are just beginning their careers, Bob Backlund has been at the top of his profession for two years. His title reign has been a strain that would crush a lesser man. The human body can stand so much. Is it time for Backlund to end his devastating ordeal?



**AFTER AS
TWO YEARS
CHAMPION ...**

HAS BACKLUND HAD ENOUGH?

THE MORNING SUN floods into still another motel room. The light awakens Bob Backlund, who has to think a moment to remember what town he's in. He starts to move. Then comes the pain.

This time it's in his shoulder. The slightest movement sends electric waves of pain to the muscles and joints. Awkwardly, to minimize the agony, Backlund arises and heads toward the shower. That's when his ankle, also injured the night before, reminds him how badly

contracts, and thousands of fans looking forward to seeing him. He can't take a rest, a vacation, time to recuperate. For two years, Backlund hasn't stopped battling.

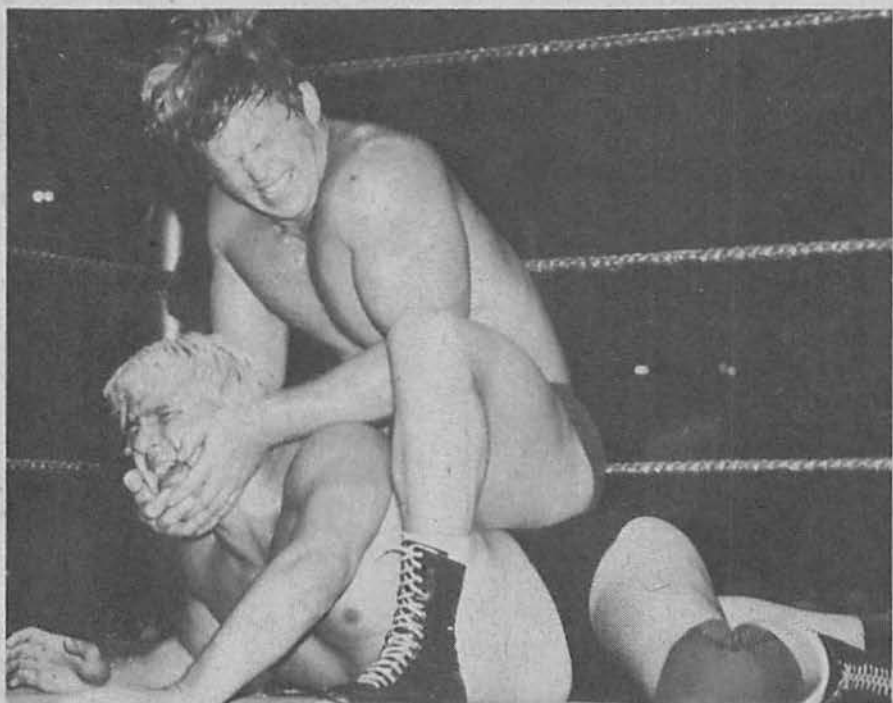
When he arrives at the airport, reporters are there to greet him. Though needing a rest, Bob fulfills his responsibility to the press. A champion has many responsibilities.

He answers the same questions that were asked at the last stop, which was a repeat of the stop before. Bob answers

it was sprained. Bob winces and keeps going. He's used to the pain by now.

The hot shower doesn't help much, nor does the alcohol. Bob doesn't have time to rest and recuperate. In an hour he's due at the airport. Tomorrow night he once again must defend his title. As he gets into his rented car, he tries to think of strategies that will protect his shoulder.

Business as usual. Bob Backlund is in the business of wrestling. He has obligations,



Backlund borrows the "camel clutch" from the Sheik and lends it to Pat Patterson (above). Bob applies the abdominal stretch to Superstar Graham (below), the man he defeated to win the title.

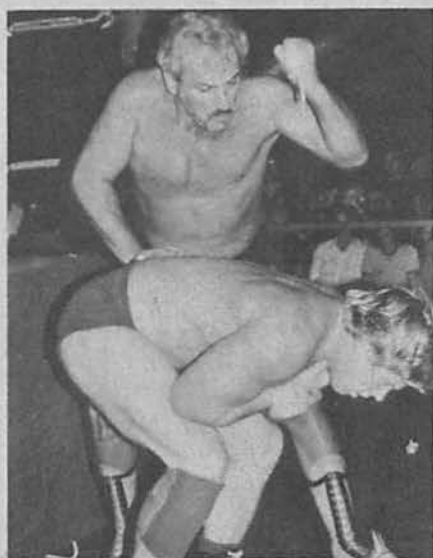


politely, if wearily. It's part of the job.

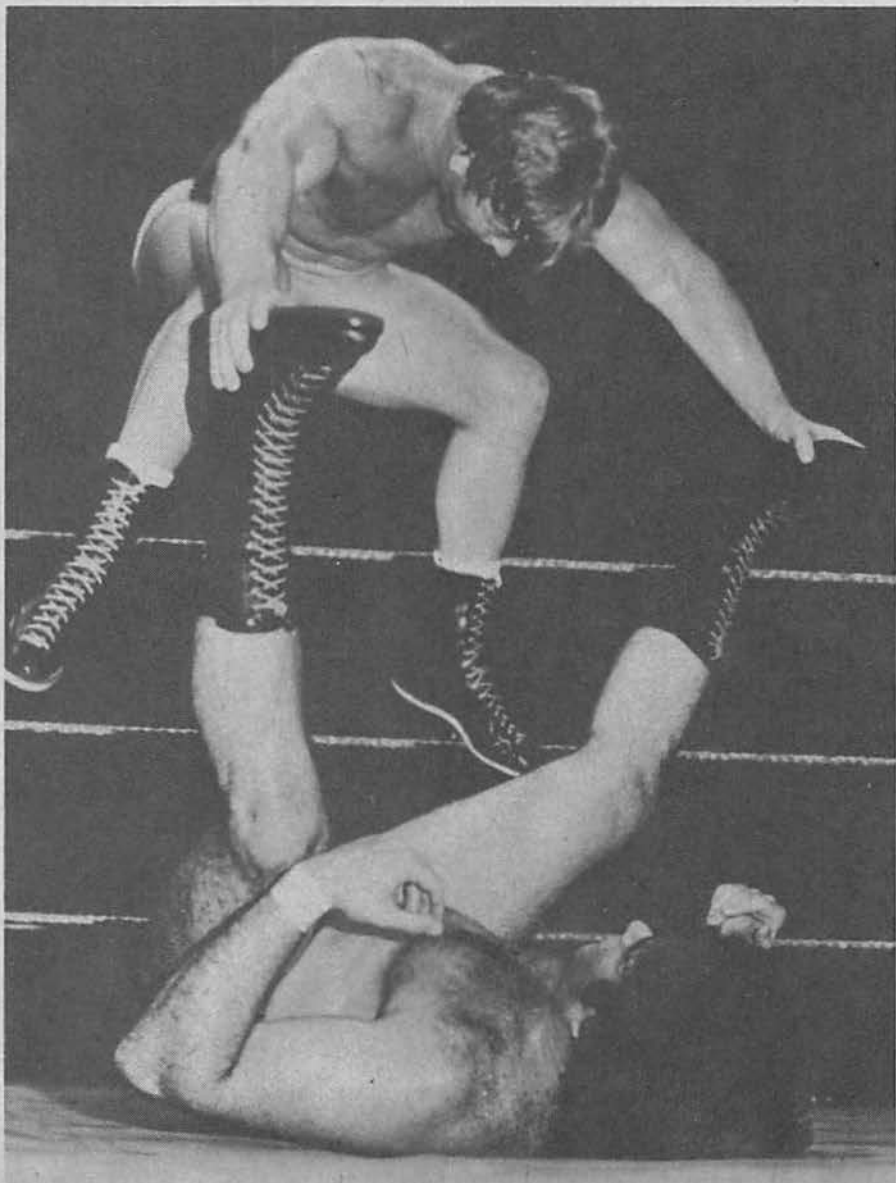
That afternoon, Bob visits the children's ward in a local hospital. For the first time in a long time, Bob relaxes and enjoys himself. It delights him to know his title and presence mean so much to the youngsters. He's rejuvenated.

His new found energy barely lasts him through dinner. He goes to his motel room early, turns on the television and almost immediately falls asleep.

(Continued on page 50)



The Sheik lifts a knee to Bob's throat and autographs the back of his neck (above). The WWF champion leaps upon the chest of Spiros Arion (below).



THE CONTRACT WAS clear and unyielding.

"The loser of this match shall be banished from Georgia wrestling arenas," the clause read.

Both Tommy Rich and Bobby Heenan accepted the loser-leave-town match with all its implications. Originally Terry Funk was to wrestle Rich in the cage, but Funk begged off, claiming some mysterious disease.

Heenan was more than happy to replace Funk. And Rich was delighted to face him.

"I get more satisfaction out of whipping Heenan than any other wrestler," said Rich. "That guy's tried to do everything to ruin my career. He's tried to cripple me and send his mindless thugs after me, all with the intention of permanently hurting me and getting me out of wrestling."

"Well, I look forward to battering Heenan around the cage, bloodying his body and sending him back to the AWA," said Rich. "He never belonged here in the first place."

This match went according to pre-bout predictions. Young Rich kept his calm, poised plan, only succumbing to measured brawling when Heenan managed to slip a foreign object into the ring and try to carve his initials on Rich's face.

Despite such gruesome tactics, Rich prevailed, sending Heenan westward, back to the AWA, this time as a manager only. And that's why AWA fans hate Tommy Rich.

Already Heenan had signed to return as Nick Bockwinkel's manager.

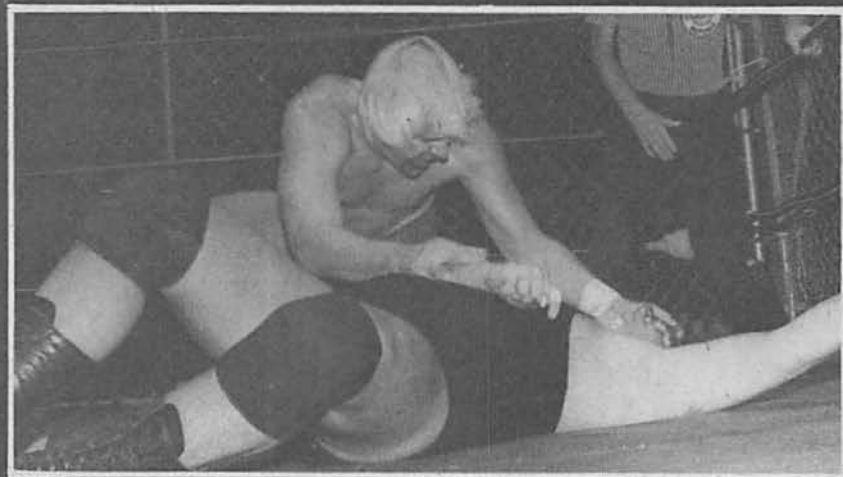
"I want Bobby back at my side, helping me chart a course through these slimy waters filled with polluted fish like Gagne," said Bockwinkel.

And Heenan was more than happy to return.

"Me and Nicky are like brothers," said "The Brain." "While I enjoyed managing men like Killer Kox and Masked Superstar, Nick has always been special to me."

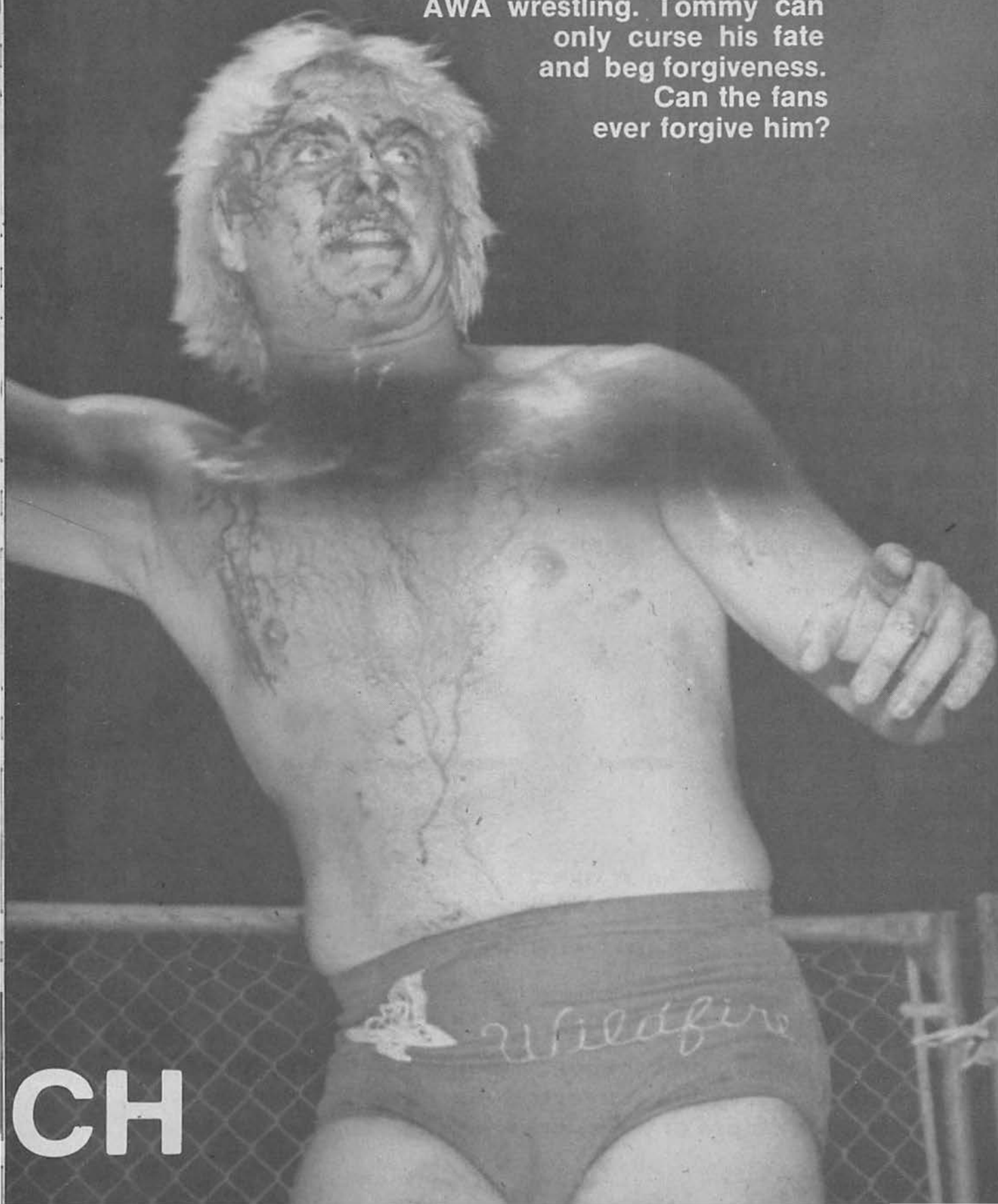
Even though Heenan has signed a contract to manage Bockwinkel, he had one small problem which even the self-proclaimed brain of wrestling couldn't surmount. Until that cage match provided the ready device.

(Continued on page 62)



WHY AWA FANS HATE TOMMY RICH

Due to circumstances beyond his control, Tommy Rich
may be responsible for the worst thing
that has ever happened to
AWA wrestling. Tommy can
only curse his fate
and beg forgiveness.
Can the fans
ever forgive him?



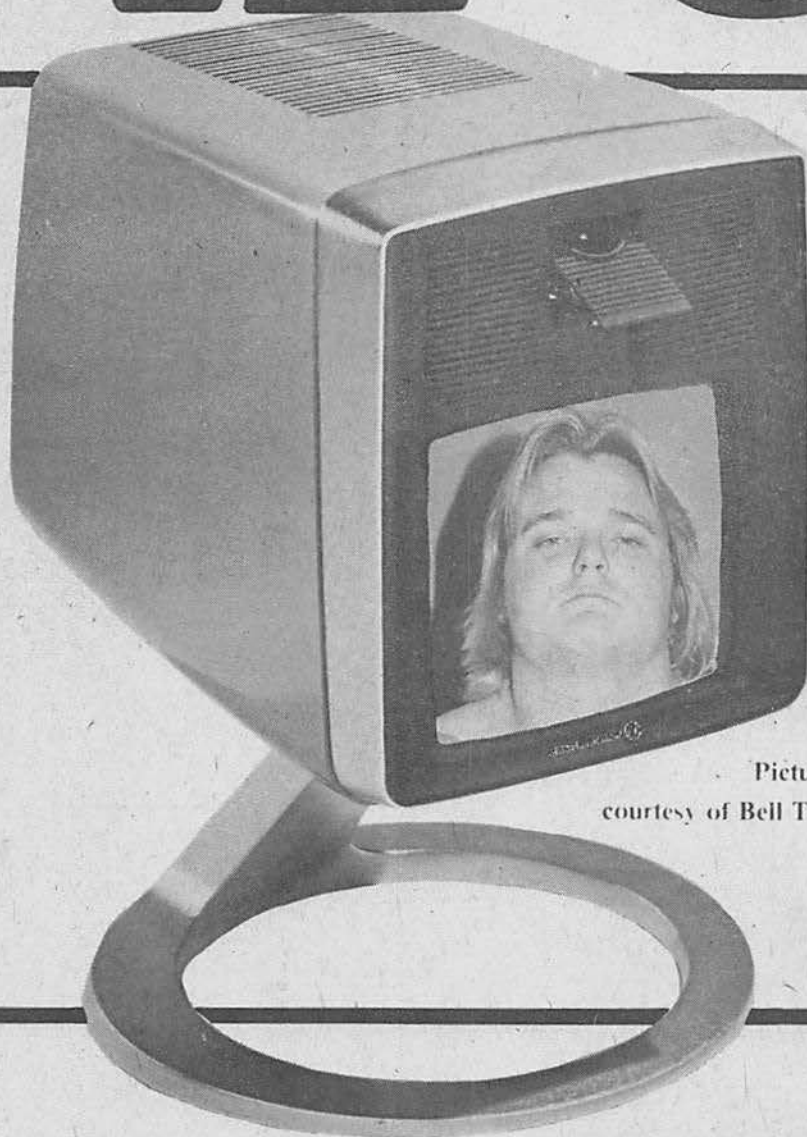
CH

ONE ON



When Greg Valentine returned to the Mid-Atlantic area, he hoped to team once again with Ric Flair. It was not to be, however.

(Their names were once synonymous with double-edged cruelty. For years, they spread a reign of horrific terror throughout the Mid-Atlantic area. Each mistrusted the entire world save for his partner. Then one of the blonds left the area. He insisted it was to conquer new horizons. During his absence, the other changed. Suddenly fans weren't booing him. Suddenly the old feud turned into new friends. And when his former partner returned, he wasn't greeted with warmth, but with contempt. Finally, Ric Flair and Greg Valentine air their views. They are not pleasant.)



Picturephones
courtesy of Bell Telephone

RIC FLAIR:

Hey, Valentine, hold up your hands.

GREG VALENTINE:

Why?

RF: I wanna see if you got some-

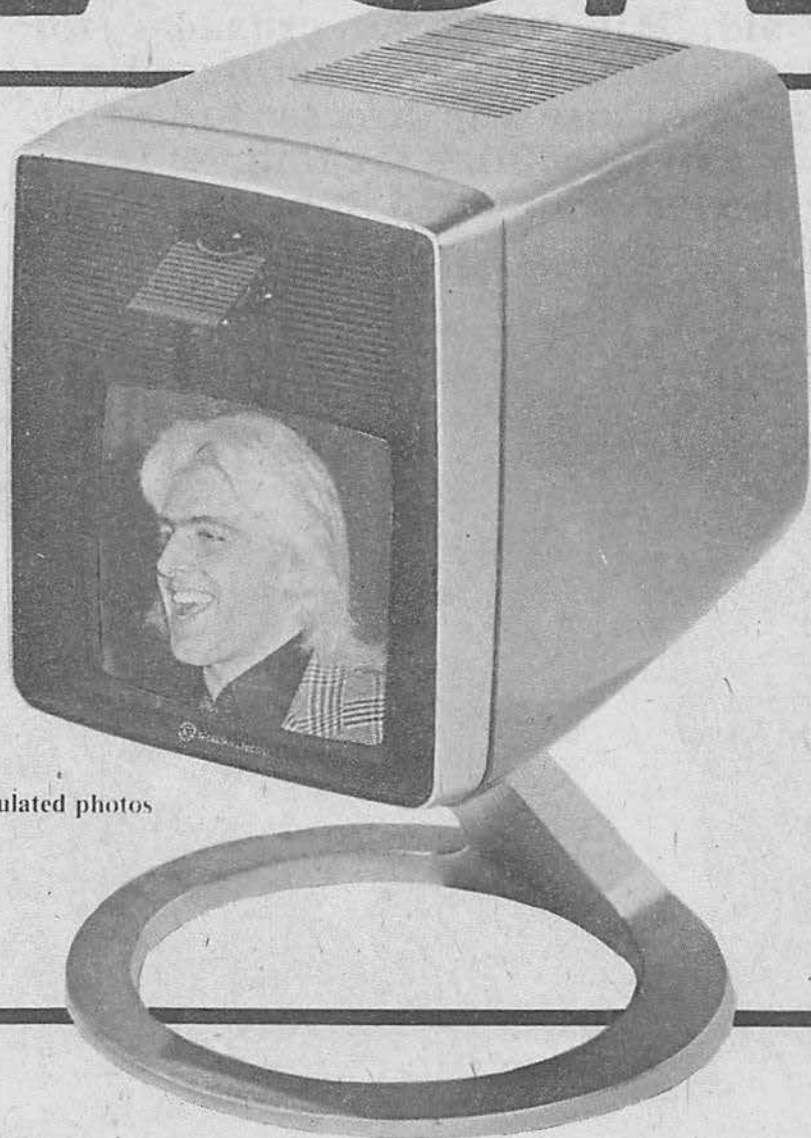
one's blood on your fingers.

GV: Not yet. If you had the guts to wrestle me, maybe that'd change.

RF: I wasn't the one who ran away when things got too hot

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

NONE



Simulated photos



Ric Flair underwent a major change after Valentine left the area. And he was not about to change back when Greg returned.

down here.

GV: I never ran.

RF: Bull. We were being attacked on all fronts. Everyone was turning against us. It was just me, you and John [Studd]. But you hadda run away. You were afraid, Valentine. You were just yellow.

GV: I had my ambitions.

RF: Come on, Valentine. We coulda owned this place. Who was our competition,

huh?

GV: You tell me, Flair. You're wrestlin' with all of your buddies. Tell me how nice Steamboat is. He stab you in the back yet? Or how's about that punk Jay Youngblood? He your good buddy now?

RF: Yeah, they're my friends.

GV: Fool. You think they're . . .

RF: Hey, Steamboat has class, something I never realized before.

GV: That bum tried to rip apart your skull.

RF: Gotta forgive and forget.

GV: I don't believe you, man, you're up to something.

RF: Like?

GV: I don't know. Wouldn't surprise me if you turned on everyone.

RF: Hey, I don't have to . . .

GV: I got the word you're lookin' to sneak-attack Steamboat. Not that I blame you, but at least be up front, man.

RF: I'm a man of my word, Valentine. I keep my promises an I'm loyal to my friends, which is more than you've ever been.

GV: That's what's eatin' at your guts, huh, Flair?

RF: Yup. You left me. Pure and simple, man, you deserted me. Now you come back when the whole Mid-Atlantic

(Continued on page 64)

MIL MASCARAS—

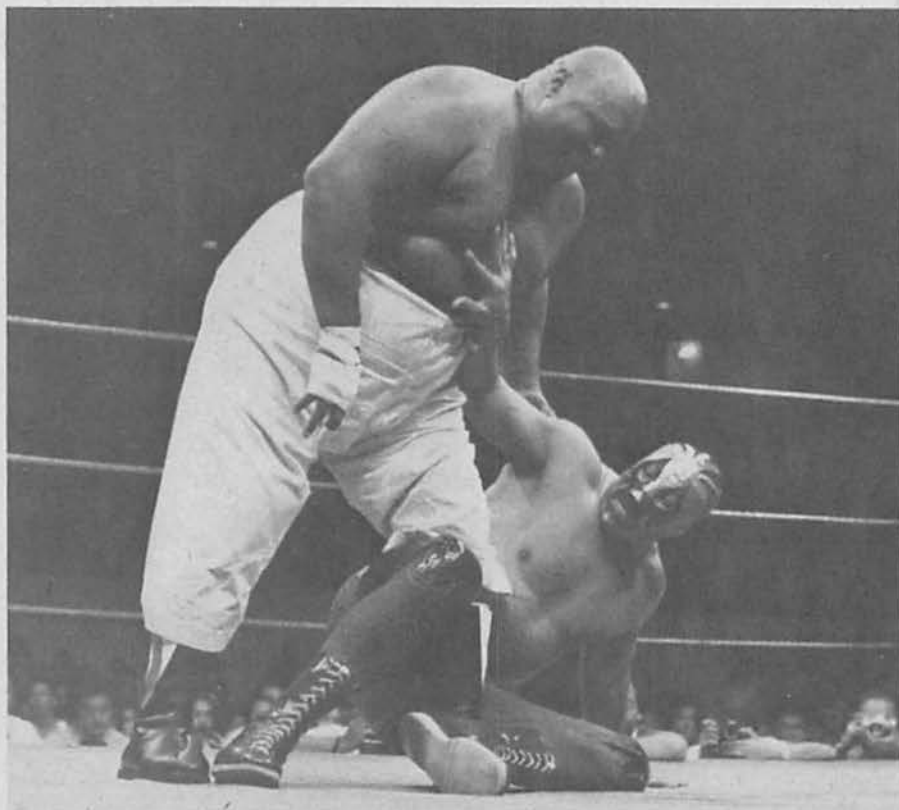
Like a knight of old, Mil Mascaras crusades for righteousness. His field of battle is any wrestling ring in the world. His enemies are those who threaten to destroy the sport for their own gain. Abdullah the Butcher is one such enemy. Mil's honor compelled him to accept Abdullah's challenge

BY MITSU MOROBITO,
Special Japanese Correspondent

THE JET LANDED just past midnight. Stiff and weary after the long flight, Mil Mascaras disembarked. I was waiting for him. We shook hands, exchanged greetings, and then drove to his hotel. I could see this was not the time to give him the particulars of his mission.

As I dropped him off at his hotel, Mil instructed, "Be here by nine. I want to know everything."

Everything, I thought, as I drove back to my home. How do you begin to describe the agony, the fear, and the sorrow brought to our island by Abdullah the Butcher? Some of the nation's best wrestlers were spending this night in hospital beds. At least two would never wrestle again. All because of Abdullah the Butcher's ruthless reign of terror?



Responding to the plea of Japanese wrestling promoters, Mil Mascaras flew across the world to battle the fearsome Abdullah the Butcher. Above: Mil tries to bring Abdullah to the mat with a scissors trip.

GLOBETROTTING TROUBLESHOOTER

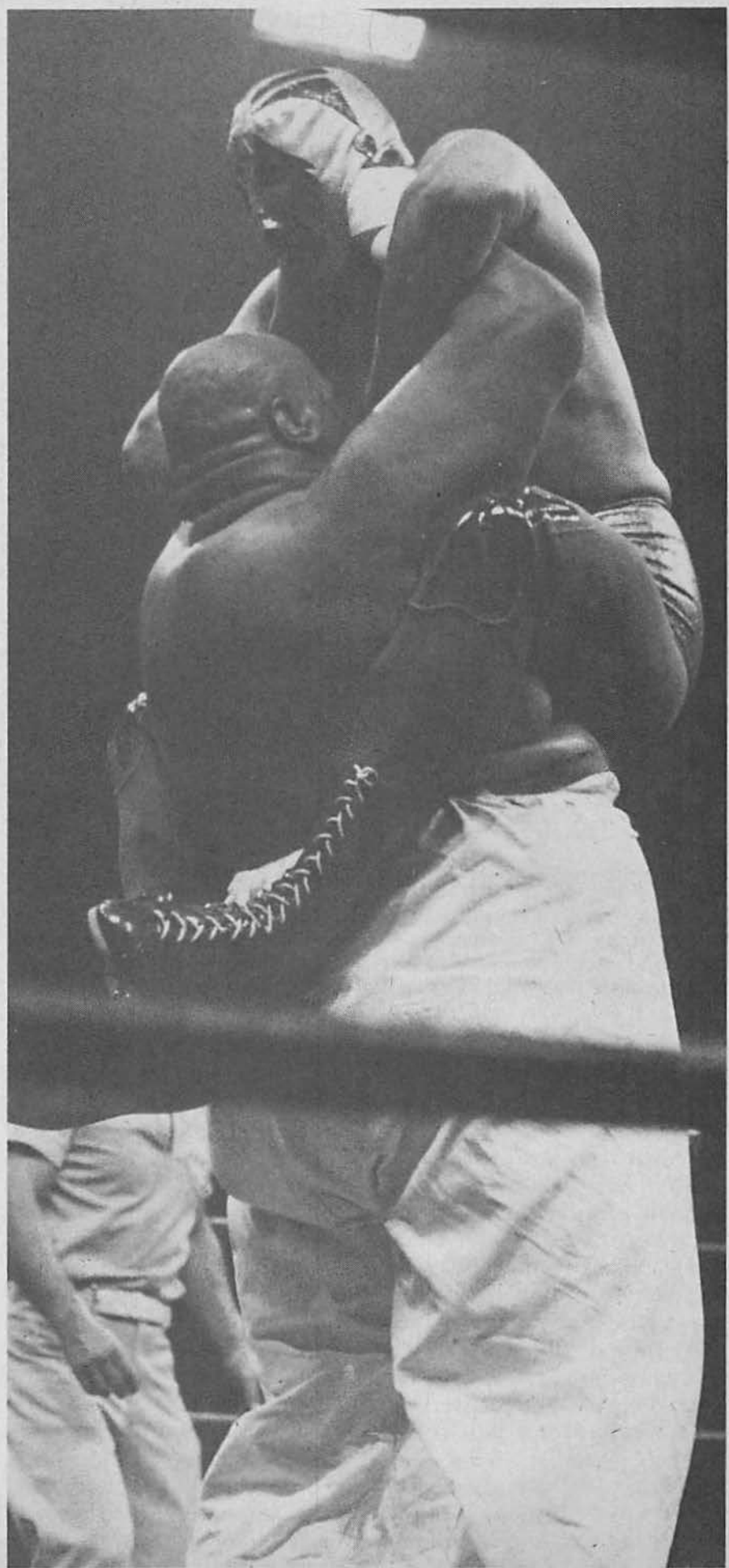
Abdullah uses his awesome strength to lift Mascaras in the air by his neck. The Masked Mexican somehow managed to escape the hold.

Though it had been less than a month, it was hard to remember Japanese wrestling before Abdullah came. Could there really have been a time when a stretcher wasn't needed at an arena? Did we once rest secure knowing that decency triumphed in our sport? Abdullah was like a plague that wiped out even the good memories of what came before its arrival.

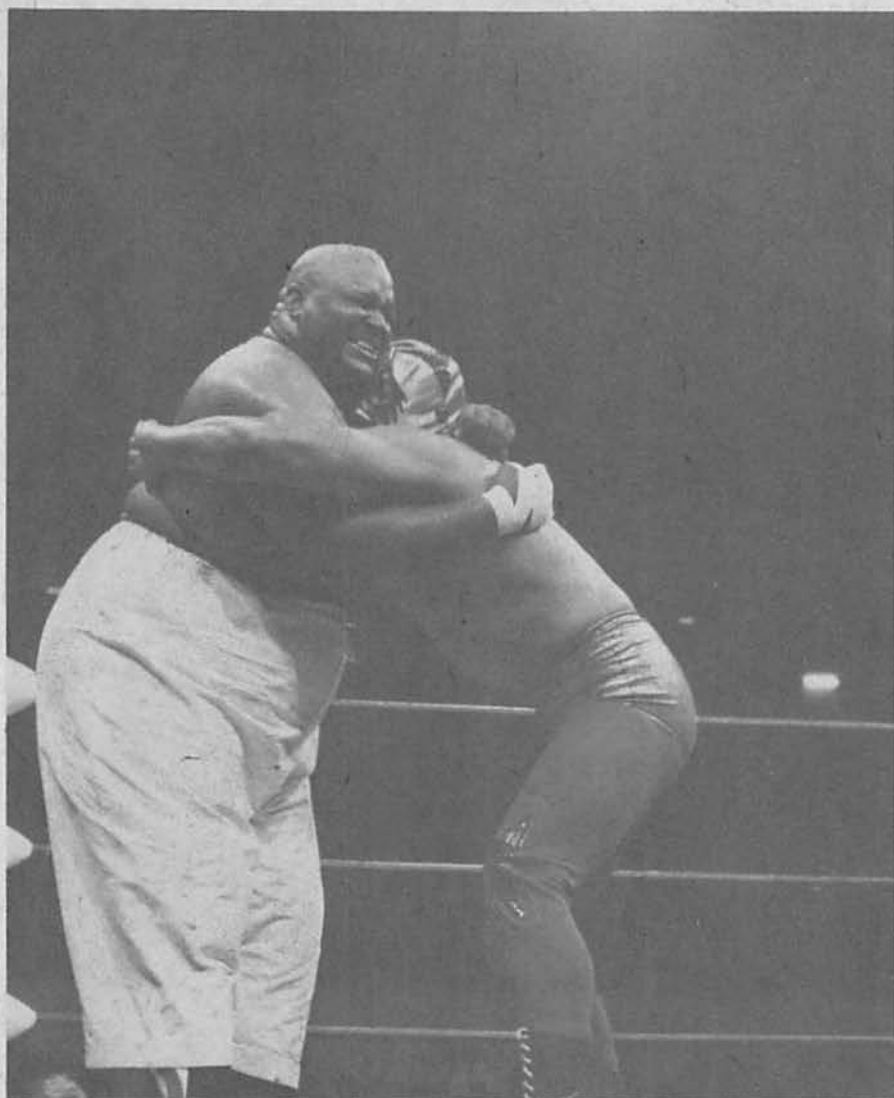
Somehow, Mil Mascaras had heard of the horror. Mil is perhaps the best friend Japanese wrestling has; perhaps the best friend wrestling anywhere has. He immediately volunteered to come to the island and wrestle Abdullah. Because I've been following Abdullah's matches, Mil asked to see me to discuss the strategies Abdullah uses. I was honored to help.

The next morning, I arrived to find Mil studying films of Abdullah's matches. As he studied them intently, he also listened to me describe the matches. It was two in the afternoon before we were finished.

"I can see what's happening," Mil explained. "Whenever somebody starts conquering all, like Abdullah is doing, people in the area get scared. The fear feeds on itself, so its out of control. People are victimized by the fear more than the wrestler. It takes someone from outside,



**IG
TER**



Above: Mascaras can barely wrap his arms around Abdullah's gigantic body. Right: The Butcher ascends the bottom turnbuckle in preparation for an elbow smash to the back of Mascaras' neck. Both wrestlers were counted out of the ring, but Mascaras proved to the Japanese people that Abdullah is not to be held in awe.

masked gladiator countered each maneuver with a maneuver of his own. It was a superb display of wrestling genius. Every move was economical, powerful, and effective. Abdullah grew more and more frustrated.

Then came the explosion. Abdullah turned into a raging beast. He slashed, clawed, bit, kicked, and brutalized his opponent. The crowd was silent in fear for Mascaras. I can't report what happened during those minutes as I was too scared to take notes.



someone who hasn't been infected by the terror, to stop the conqueror. That's what I'm here for. If it wasn't for this fear, half of Abdullah's opponent's could've beaten him.

"Don't get me wrong. Anywhere against anyone, Abdullah is dangerous. But with the fear on his side, he's unstoppable. I remember, when I first started out, there was a wrestler who kept battering everyone. We thought he was the greatest ever. Then some mediocre wrestler came and beat him. We all asked the winner how he beat the greatest wrestler of all. 'Nobody told me he was the greatest,' the

mediocre grappler replied. I've never forgotten that.

"I'll take Abdullah. I owe it to the sport. Fear shouldn't be a weapon for anyone."

Two days later, Mil confronted Abdullah. If there can be majesty in brutality, there was majesty that night.

From the opening instant, Abdullah was at his meanest. He used every dirty trick in the book to cripple Mil. Everyone could see Abdullah was interested in winning but also in injuring. Most wrestlers would have become cautious, defensive, trying desperately not to be hurt. Mil isn't like most wrestlers.

With astonishing courage, the

No ring could contain such action. The two men spilled out of the ring and onto the arena floor. The referee counted as both men ignored him. They were still battling when the referee announced, "Double disqualification! They have been counted out!"

Abdullah heard the words and fled back to the dressing room. He no longer had any stomach for this war. Watching him go, Mil stood before the cheering crowd.

The next time Abdullah wrestled, you could sense the difference in the air. The fear was gone. Abdullah's opponent wrestled him to a draw. □

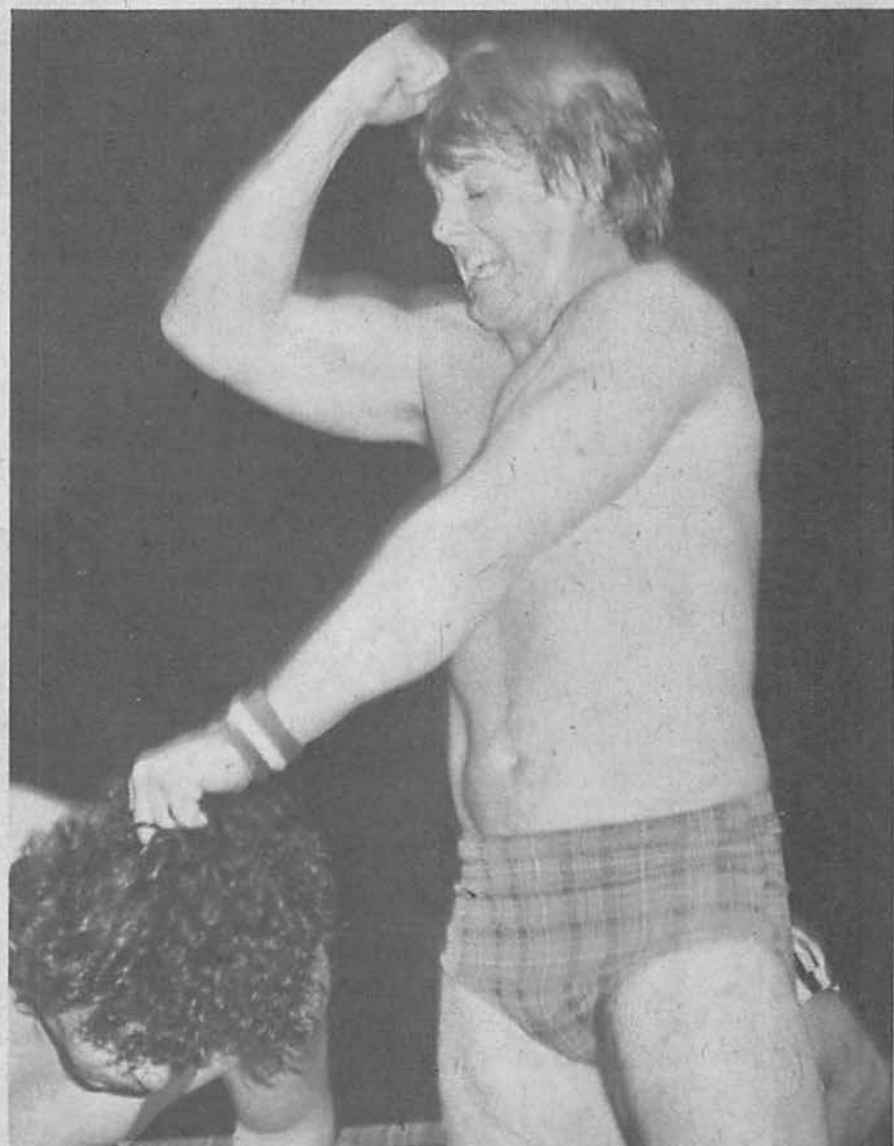
INSIDE WRESTLING

45

capsule profile

HOLDS THE DISTINCTION of being the youngest manager-wrestler in West Coast wrestling history (*"I got my ambition and my age got nothin' to do with it"*)... Gained the nickname "Rowdy" for solid reasons (*"I like to get in there and brawl a bit. I'm not one of those slap and dance dudes"*)... Exploded on the Pacific scene fresh out of Scotland wrestling arenas (*"A ring is a ring. No matter where it is"*)... Immensely proud of his Scottish heritage (*"I'm happy and proud to be a Scotsman. Any time a jerk says otherwise, I cream his face"*)... Began his career as a rulebreaker (*"Ah, I was young"*)... Most famous feud involved Stan Stasiak (*"Me and Stan just didn't hit it off. What can you say?"*)... Now he and Stasiak form a powerful tag team (*"Wrestling makes strange ring-fellows, as a wise man, whose name I forgot, once said"*)... His bloodiest war is against "Playboy" Buddy

RODDY PIPER

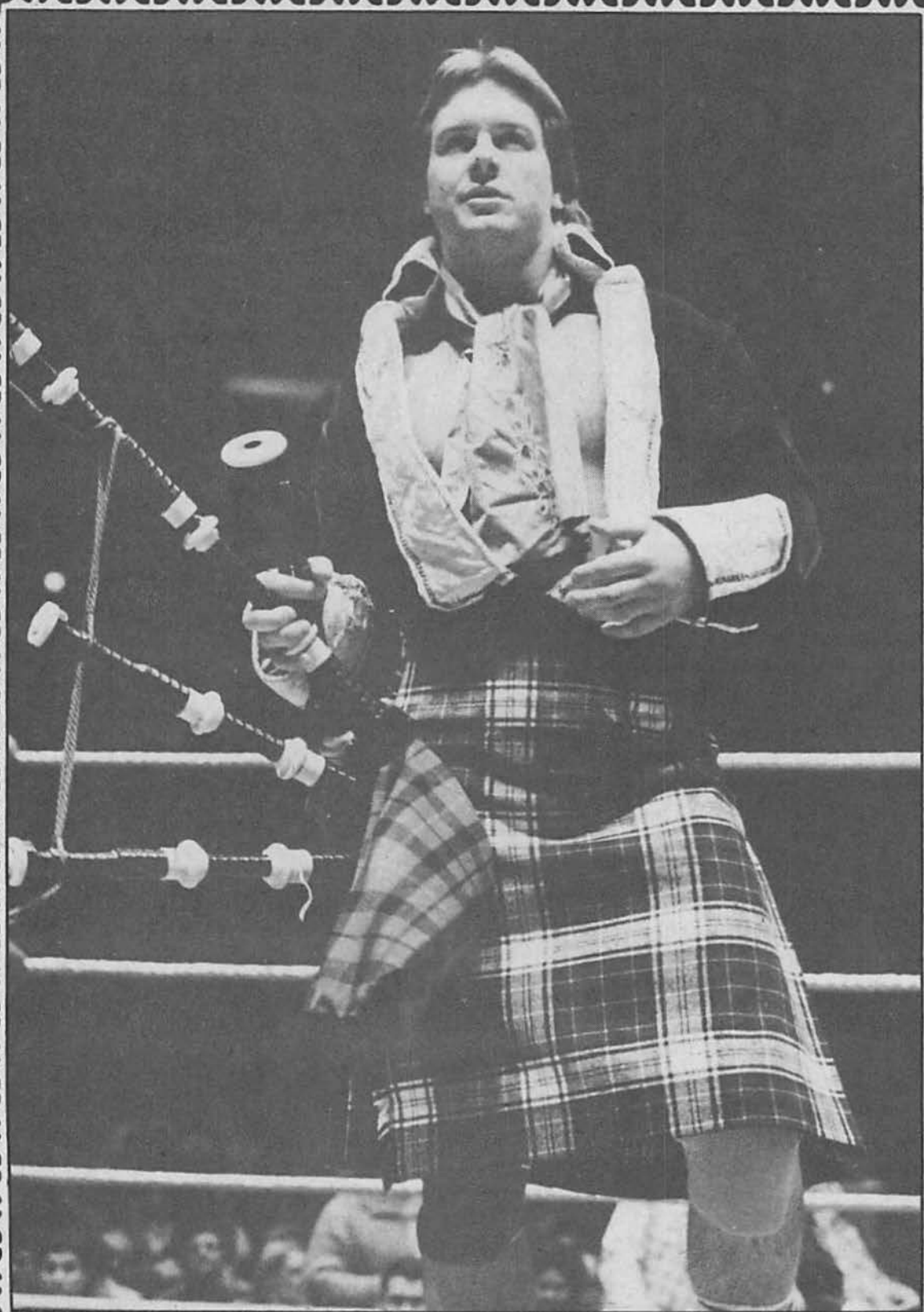


Although Roddy Piper's style still deems him worthy of the nickname "Rowdy," he is now appreciated by the fans who once hated him. His feud with former WWF champion Stan Stasiak raged in the Northwest for months, but now the two form a powerful tag team.

Rose (*"A pig. A liar. A cheat. A bum. I think that about covers him"*)... Fan sentiment has turned toward him in recent times (*"Fans are funny. I don't know. I respect their opinions and it's sure nice to hear them cheer for me"*)... Finds the Pacific Northwest an especially

appealing place to wrestle (*"Something about the scenery and all just takes your breath away. It's really magnificent"*)... His combination of innate intellect and overpowering skills make him a prime contender for a world title someday (*"World champion. That'd be nice"*). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



RODDY PIPER

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!



SPIROS ARION

Spiros claims there is a conspiracy among WWF officials to prevent him from receiving a license to wrestle in the area because they know he would beat Bob Backlund and take the WWF title out of the country. For now, though, he is content to remain in New Zealand and Australia. He is the Austro-Asian Champion.

RAY STEVENS

Stevens has turned up in the Mid-Atlantic region in search of a worthy partner with whom he can pose a serious challenge to NWA tag team champions Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood. Ray has been seen at ringside for several matches involving Greg Valentine. The combination of Stevens' bombs away and Valentine's figure-four leglock would be awesome.



PROFESSOR TORU TANAKA

After a brief vacation, Tanaka is negotiating for a contract to wrestle in the Georgia area. The only stumbling block seems to be his insistence that he be given a no-holds-barred match with Mr. Wrestling II, whose neck Tanaka broke several years ago.

MIGHTY IGOR

The powerful Pole has vowed to remain in the Detroit area to continue his battle against the infamous Motown rulebreakers. He still claims his source of strength is kielbasa and sends his regards to all his loving fans world wide.



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BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 14)



Prior to becoming clients of Lou Albano, the Samoans were a good tag team, but not a great tag team.

benefit from added experience. That's why they're the best.

"So far, I've developed about 50 new strategies for the Samoans. The fans have seen less than 10. We're working on one now that will rock wrestling to its roots. I can't imagine any tag team coming along that can beat the Samoans. I have trained them too hard and too well. They have it all. The Samoans will retire with the belt."

After managing as many tag teams as Albano has, some men would run out of ideas. Albano finds just the opposite is true.

"Tag team wrestling," Lou contends, "is still a young sport. We haven't begun to discover the possibilities. The best tag team in the world hasn't been formed yet. I just hope the sport will be half developed in my lifetime. Some kid reading this magazine will probably manage the first really spectacular tag team, and

that won't be until he's in his 50s. We've got decades of exploration and mistakes to be made. Tag team wrestling is the most exciting sport around!"

It's this excitement that keeps Albano searching out new techniques, struggling to achieve the greatness he knows exists. The fans can curse him all they want. It won't stop him from making the Samoans the greatest tag team champions of all time. Genius doesn't depend on the approval of others.

Watching the Samoans train is a study in physical concentration. The two men perfect every move, practicing each maneuver over and over again. It's exhausting, demanding work. Only the most dedicated grapplers will stand for that kind of mental and physical exhaustion. Albano demands no less than total dedication.

That's why the Samoans will win the WWF tag team title. Albano demands no less. ☐

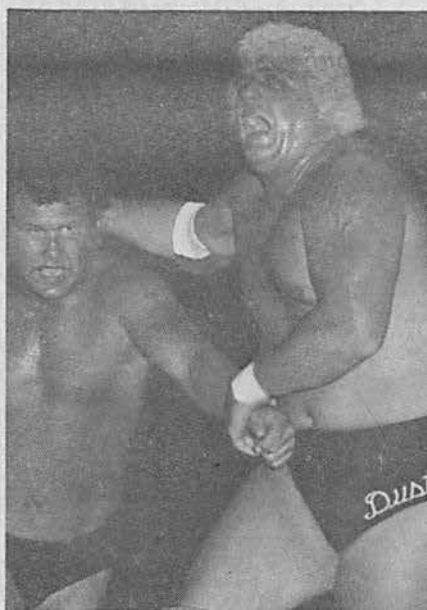
HARLEY RACE

(Continued from Page 31)

Manny did say he thinks it's about time someone other than Dusty Rhodes gets a shot at Harley Race's NWA title."

At this writing, Fernandez is Florida heavyweight champ. That belt is one level beneath Race's. Surely the state champion deserves more title bouts than someone who has no championship. Like Rhodes.

However, the Rhodes-Race wars have deeper meaning than mere champion versus contender. Their hatred threatens to consume and ruin



The Dusty Rhodes-Harley Race feud has transcended normal challenger-champion status. There is more at stake for the two men than a mere championship.

their careers. It isn't like Race can simply turn to another contender and offer him a shot. Each time he considers defending his title, Race wants Dusty Rhodes. And Rhodes wants the champ.

"Yeah, I want that bum Race and I want him wiped all over the lousy mat," snapped Rhodes. "I deserve that title. I can't forget how that bum Race conspired with Funk to steal my title."

(Continued on page 48)

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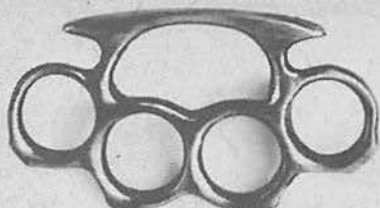
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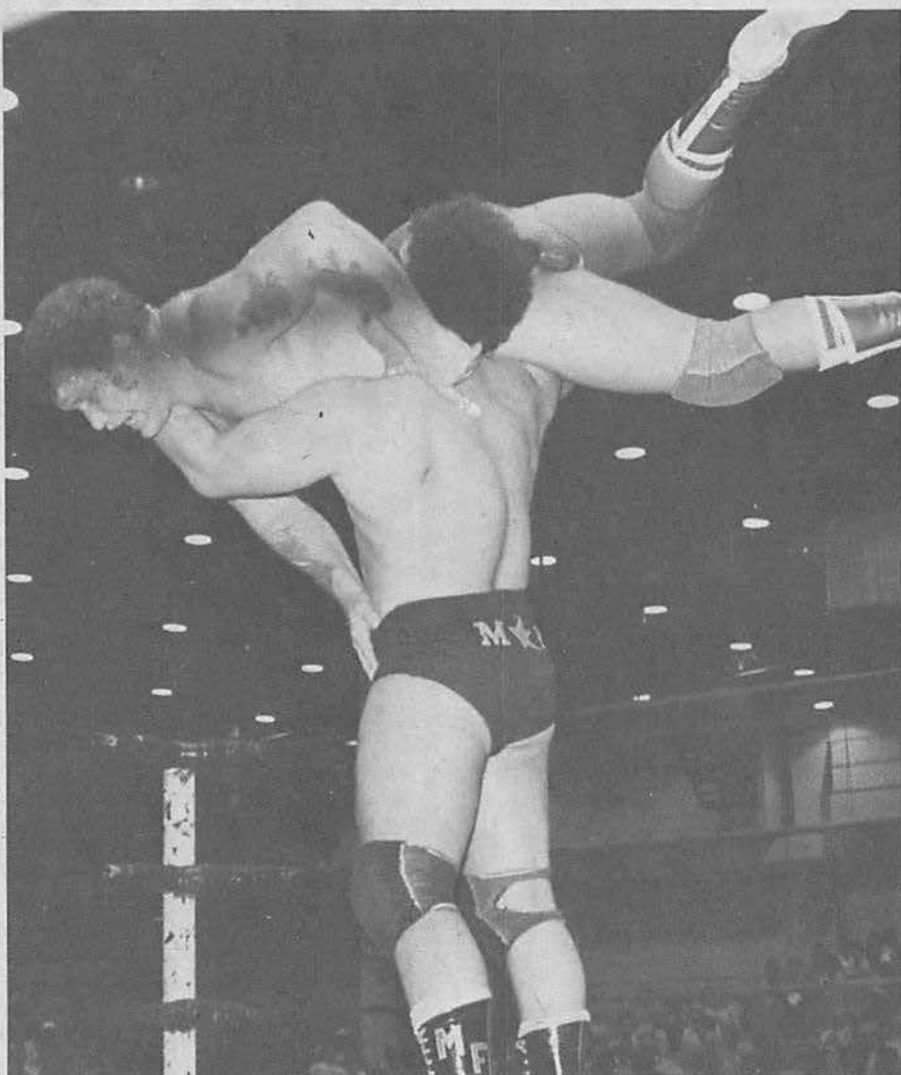
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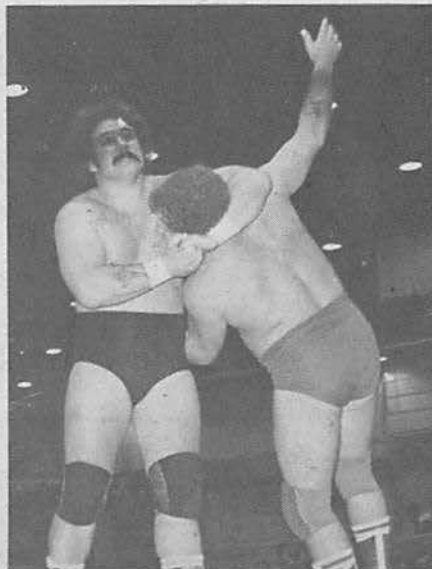
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HARLEY RACE

(Continued from Page 47)



Fernandez feels that Dusty is denying him the opportunity to wrestle Race for the championship. The animosity multiplies every time he sees the two wrestle. Manny once had a title match, but the result was a close draw. Fernandez lifts Race for a bodyslam (above) and rings the champ's head (below left and right).



"So I get first dibs on any title shots. Me. Don't matter one little bit who's ranked where or who's champion of what state," Rhodes continued, growing angry. "Manny gotta realize that."

A young, ambitious wrestler cannot focus nor readily understand the intensity of two veterans like Race and Rhodes. All Fernandez understands, or wants to understand, is why he is denied title shots when Rhodes gets all the championship matches he wants.

"It's not fair," said Fernandez. "I don't care about this feud garbage. If Race can't properly defend his title, then he should relinquish it and take Rhodes into some alley to settle their dispute."

"But a champion has a responsibility to his title, the other contenders, and the fans. I bet a lot of fans are getting mighty tired watching Rhodes and Race knock each other around the ring every other day. It's time to give someone else a break," Fernandez continued.

"What's the use of breaking your back, trying to strive for something if people close the door on your head? I've worked real hard to win the Florida title and move in as NWA champion. But Race won't give me a break," Manny said.

"What surprises me is Dusty's reaction. I thought he'd have some compassion and understanding for me. I thought he'd be fair about all this and a little less selfish," said Fernandez. "He hasn't. He says he'll do what he must and the hell with what happens to others. Well, I won't accept that."

Rhodes does understand Fernandez's dilemma. He knows what struggling is like. But Rhodes has a score to settle. Apparently, the hate is consuming more than just Race and Rhodes. A lot more. ☐

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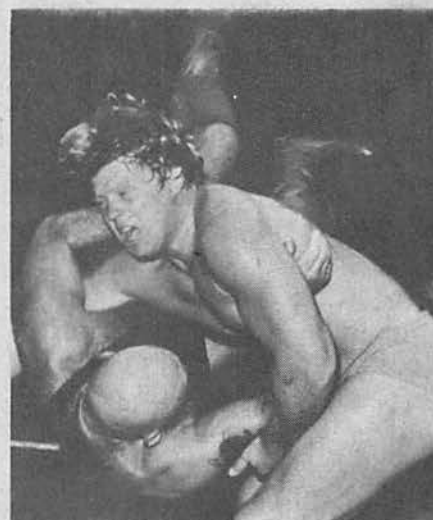
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BACKLUND

(Continued from Page 35)



Backlund's clash with AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel (above) resulted in a hard-fought draw. When Peter Maivia came to the WWF, he and Backlund became close friends. It didn't last, however. Bob battles Maivia in a steel cage (below left). Former WWF champion Ivan Koloff found that Backlund was not about to return the belt (below right).



He doesn't get up until the next morning.

When he does arise, his shoulder hurts only slightly less but his ankle seems fine. He showers, then heads for the gym. There he exercises for two hours. He follows a strict exercise regimen. When it's over, he mentally checks his body. His shoulder still hurts, but everything else is working well. It's about what he expected.

That night, another wrestler battles the match of his life against Backlund. The man has

been training all his life for this chance. Bob manages once again to turn back the challenge. He leaves the arena still WWF champion.

Yet, it's impossible to determine how much damage has been done to Backlund's body. Once a perfect physical specimen, Bob's body shows the ravages of the title years. The once fluid grace is now broken down to sharper, harsher movements. His sense of celebration is gone; in its place exists a cold profession-

alism. He's no longer a young grappler propelled to the top. He's a champion with no illusion. The most important thing in his life is to protect his belt. There's nothing fun about it.

It's taken two years for the transformation of Bob Backlund. The boyishness is gone, lost somewhere in sweat and blood. Even for veterans, a title reign is an exhausting, agonizing ordeal. For Backlund, a man with few years experience, it is a brutalizing trial unequalled in professional sports. Many assumed Backlund would have lost the title long before this. His reign has been a superhuman effort.

How long can he continue? Do the fans have the right to ask him to defend his title still another time? How much longer can he survive? No one knows the answers to these questions. Time will tell us soon enough.

It's no secret that Backlund's friends have been begging him to take it easy. They regularly plead with him to take a long vacation. Some are even asking him to surrender the belt and go on to other, less demanding tasks. Bob listens to them, but his eyes glaze over. He cannot and will not leave the title. It will have to be taken from him by force.

There is never a lack of men ready to take the title by force. The most dangerous men in the sport are anxious for the chance. Some have already had their chance to batter Backlund's body. Others are struggling to get a match. Backlund waits for them all.

Whether or not Bob Backlund should take it easy is an interesting question. However, it's meaningless. Backlund won't take it easy. The championship has transformed him. The boy has become a man. ☐

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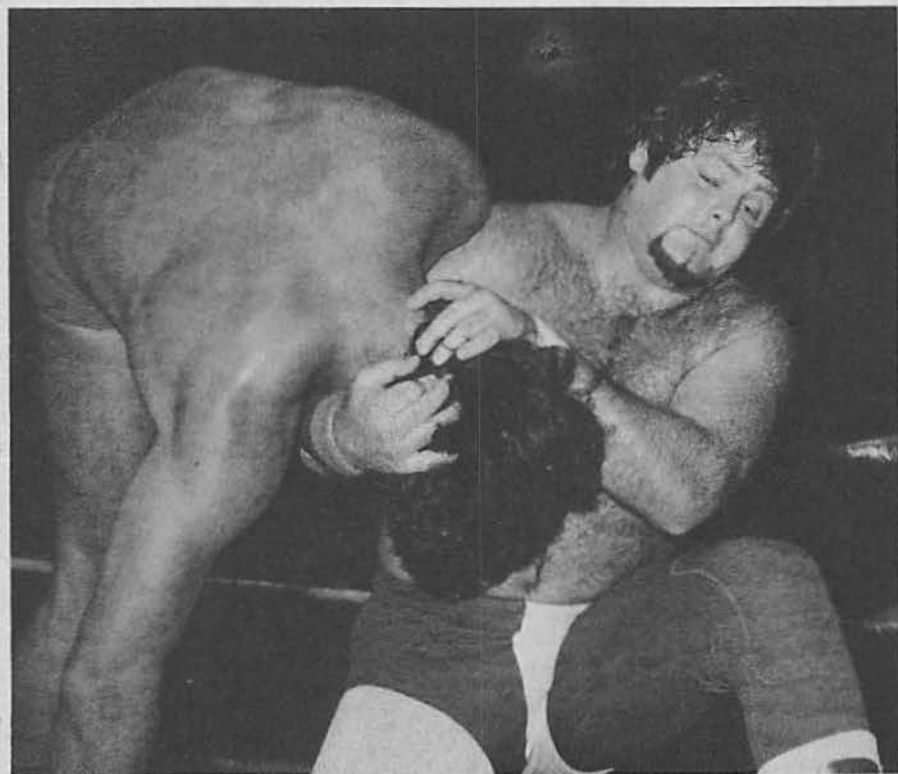
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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



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"I cooked up some Australian stew and invited the boys over to plot strategy. We agreed that we'd take on Lawler one at a time, but one of us would always be present at ringside in case Lawler brought one of his goons in to interfere. We're gonna make sure the matches are kept clean," said Dundee.

To prevent discord, each of the members were free to wrestle Lawler any way he wished.

"Bruiser wanted to rip off Lawler's ears and hang them from his belt," said Dundee, chuckling. "Bobo wanted to coco butt Lawler's head into a thin pancake while Bockwinkel wanted to snap his mind with psychic maneuvers. Me, I just wanted to ruin his career. Nothin' fancy, just a plain old bloodbath. Kiss Lawler goodbye, gang, he's finished."

Not surprisingly, Lawler remains arrogantly unperturbed by all these challenges. "If I were being challenged by

If Bobo Brazil, Bruiser, and Nick Bockwinkel have their way, Lawler will soon be out of the sport. The man who wants Lawler most, though, is his former partner, Bill Dundee.

anyone who knew how to wrestle, well, maybe I'd be a little worried," said Lawler. "But they're a collection of morons and has-beens. How can I take an old bum like Bruiser seriously? I mean, he can't lace his shoes by himself.

"Bobo Brazil is half-blind by mental disease and Bockwinkel is the biggest coward goin'. That leaves Dundee. I got a personal score to settle with Dundee," said Lawler, his voice soft and ominous. "I want to show him you can't cut Jerry Lawler and get away with it."

Long after Brazil, Bruiser, and Bockwinkel are gone, Bill Dundee and Jerry Lawler will be left alone to settle their feud. That thought chilled me as I headed toward the Midwest to investigate a shocking incident in America's heartland. □



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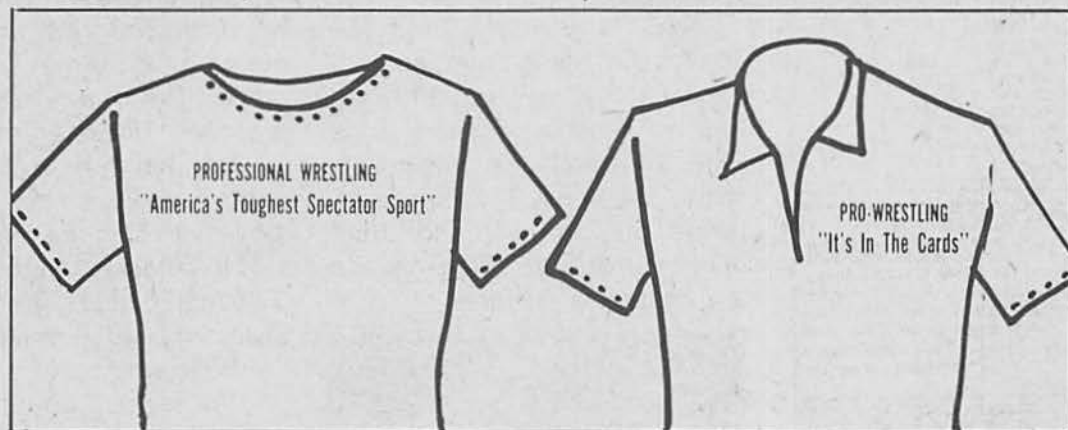
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(Continued from Page 10)

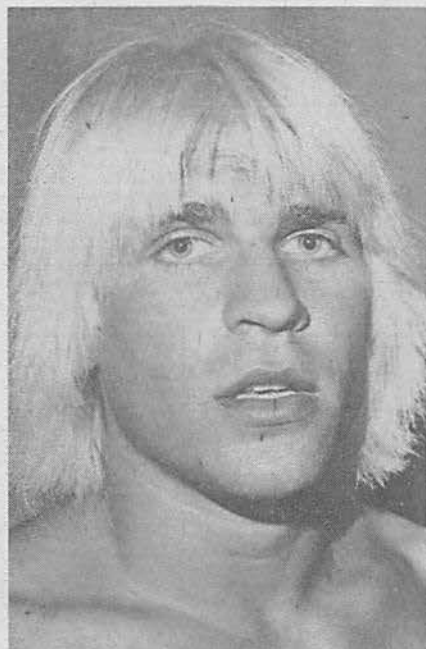
you are best qualified to write."

"What's up?"

"Well you know Tommy Rich lost the Georgia title. I hate to say it, but he's retiring from wrestling."

"No," I said. "Can't be. Tommy's certainly not a quitter."

I got to the office by 11. Peter told me that I should try to get Rich on the phone and get the story. He knew I was a close friend of Tommy's and that I might be able to bring his true feeling to the surface.



Tommy Rich seriously considered retirement following his controversial loss of the Georgia heavyweight title to Masked Superstar.

I didn't want to write about Tommy Rich retiring from wrestling. "Pete," I said, "if I could talk to him in person, I'm sure I would do a much better job. I could probably get a flight out this afternoon, see him tonight, and file the story by phone."

"Sounds good," Peter said. "But make sure you have the story to me by tomorrow noon at the latest."

Immediately upon arriving in Atlanta, I called Rich at his apartment. He wasn't there, but

assuming what kind of mood he might be in, I knew just where to find him.

Tommy was sitting by himself at the Peach Tree Tavern. I tapped him on the shoulder and he turned around and greeted me with his normal Tommy Rich smile. "How many have you had, partner?" I asked him.

"Six, kid," he replied. "But don't worry, it's only 7-Up."

We both laughed. "What brings you to Atlanta," he asked.

"Well," I said, "I'm here to do a story on your retirement, but I'm not going to do it."

"I'm serious about this," he replied. "You weren't here when I lost the title to Masked Superstar. You know I'm not a complainer, but if you saw the way he beat me... there's just no reward in this sport for abiding by the rules. How could I stay in a sport where evil is encouraged as the route to success? No sir, I'm getting out."

I didn't really have an answer for him. I gazed out the window of the bar and I noticed a long line forming for the next Friday's wrestling card at the Omni. "Look at that line, Tommy," I said. "What do you notice?"

"Looks like it's going to be a pretty good crowd," he said.

"Not only that," I said cutting him off. "Look at all those kids. Do you realize what would happen if every good man in wrestling decided to quit. The entire sport would be taken over by rulebreakers. Wrestling wouldn't be wrestling anymore. And all those kids—they would need somebody to root for. They would have to choose between the rulebreakers. Fine example they would set."

Tommy looked at me, smiled, and shook my hand. "Bartender," he shouted, "pour this man a 7-Up." □

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 12)

No one outside of wrestling would comment on the Sheik's hideous maneuver. Hopefully, they will help stop the demonic rulebreaker when and if the time comes. Meanwhile, let us all kneel down and pray. For the sake of mankind.



The Sheik lets his fire fly and another opponent is seriously injured.

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: Mr. Wrestling II has made a vow that if he does not run Masked Superstar out of Georgia in the next six months, he will retire from professional wrestling!

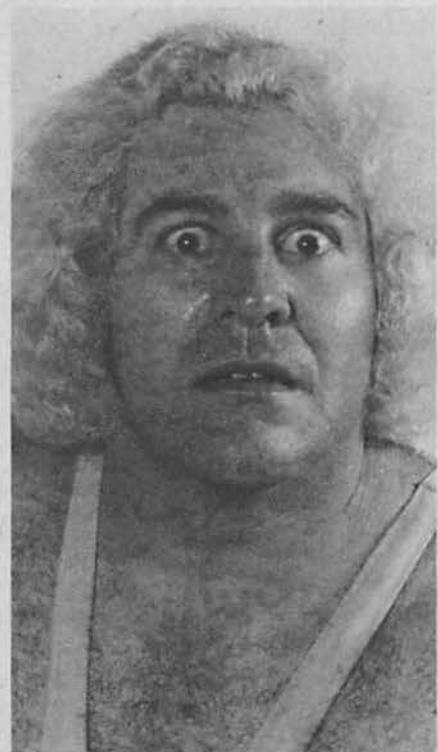
FACT: Those special few who are close to II admit that the scientific star is obsessed with ridding the state of Masked Superstar. But they will not say that II will retire if Masked Superstar remains.

"II will not be a happy man until Masked Superstar makes his ugly living somewhere else," an Atlanta observer revealed. "I wouldn't go as far as to say that II will quit the sport he loves over it, though. But if Masked Superstar is the Georgia state champion six months from now, I wouldn't be surprised to see II hang up his mask for good."

INJURY REPORT

Good news from the Mid-Atlantic are. RICK STEAMBOAT has fully recovered from the leg injury he sustained while battling BARON VON RASCHKE, PAUL JONES and JOHN STUDD. Steamboat plans to quickly gain revenge.

A bad case of the flu is circulating throughout the



Ken Patera has been limited to 50 percent efficiency while suffering from the flu. He hopes to be fully recovered when he wrestles for the WWF championship.

WWF, and several wrestlers have caught the bug. Rule-breaking strongman KEN PATERA is among those who have been weakened.

"Ken has been wrestling at 50 percent for the past two weeks, and nobody even noticed," said manager GRAND WIZARD. "That just goes to show you how awesome Patera is. For one match, he had to be dragged out of bed. He had a 102-degree temperature, and he felt weak and nauseous. And he still destroyed the pig they matched him with."

That's it for this month. Catch you later. ☐

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**SINCERELY
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(Continued from Page 18)

magazine for so long. The first moment I picked it up, I knew it was going to be good reading.

Even though I've been out of touch with the wrestling world for only a few months, I'm still hearing stories about that super malicious body crippler, Ken Patera. I read in your magazine how he's after Bob Backlund's belt. I just want to state that Patera is a daydreamer who has no sense of morality or reality. Patera, though very muscular and cruel, is no match for Bob Backlund.

JOHN PAGLIAROLI
Bronx, NY

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No one says anything about those most patient and tolerant of wrestling officials, the timekeeper.

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Yet L.B. never does anything to compromise his integrity. He has a very difficult job and it requires an infinitely patient man. I hope fans all over America take another look at their timekeepers.

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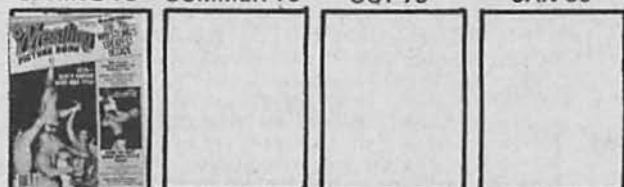
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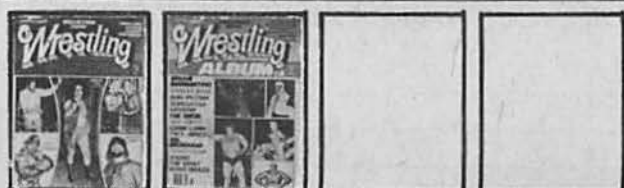


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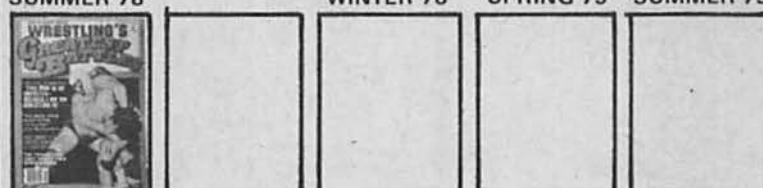
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TOMMY RICH

(Continued from Page 37)

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Heenan had a long-term contract to manage and wrestle in Georgia. He had no way of getting out of that contract. Unless he was thrown out of the state.

When Heenan learned that Funk was ill, he immediately seized upon this opportunity. If his contract were voided, there would be no lingering problems with having to fly back to Georgia on a regular basis to fulfill contractual obligations.

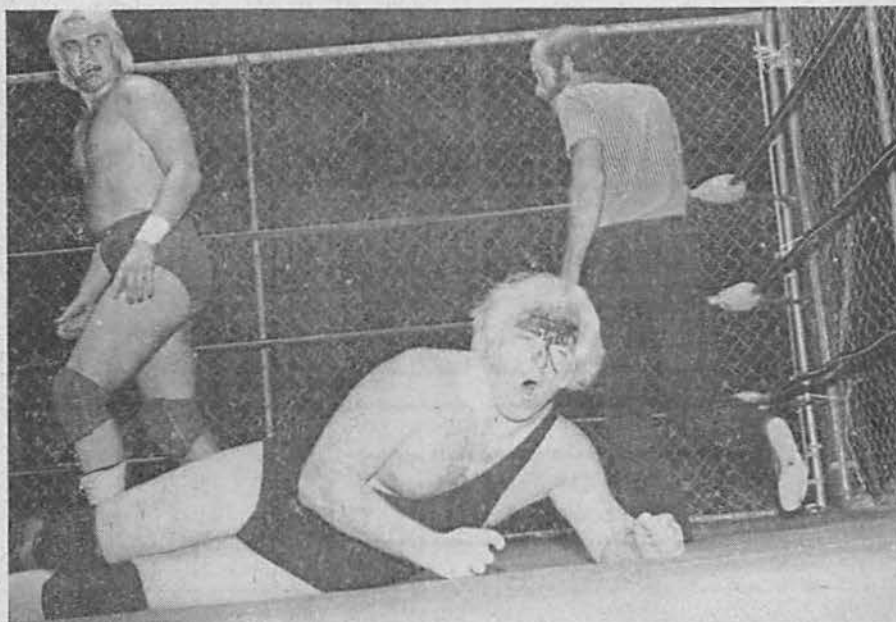
But Rich had no way of knowing that. All he wanted was revenge.

"Yeah, sweet revenge," said Rich.

But Heenan is not motivated by mortal ambitions. Another man might have wanted to lose quickly and cleanly. Heenan had no intention of losing quickly. Or cleanly. Or losing at all.

"I want the kid's head on a pike to, carry around with me as a memento," snickered Heenan.

The ending has already been



Bobby Heenan bled profusely from the forehead after being run repeatedly into the steel cage by Tommy Rich (above). Heenan, being interviewed in Georgia by Gordon Solie, is accompanied by his former stable of wrestlers Blackjack Lanza, Masked Superstar, and Killer Kox (below).



detailed. What remains is the reaction, from fans in the AWA and from the remnants of Heenan's family.

"I don't want the AWA fans to hate me," said Rich. "If they want, I'll come into the AWA and wipe Heenan's face off his head. Then everything would be square. How was I to know he wanted out of Georgia?"

There's no hard feeling between Heenan and the men he left behind.

"Bobby's always been fair and square with me," said Karl Kox. "I wish him the very best of luck."

"Heenan is a genius," said



Heenan is now back in the AWA and accompanies champion Nick Bockwinkel on a television interview. Nick appears to be revitalized with Heenan back as his manager.

Masked Superstar.

Thus the sinister tale of Bobby Heenan continues. Somehow, he manages to escape disaster after disaster and turn it into personal gain. He was banished from the AWA and found a home in Georgia, where he swiftly organized a powerful family. Then opportunity presents itself and he returns to the AWA, back at Bockwinkel's side.

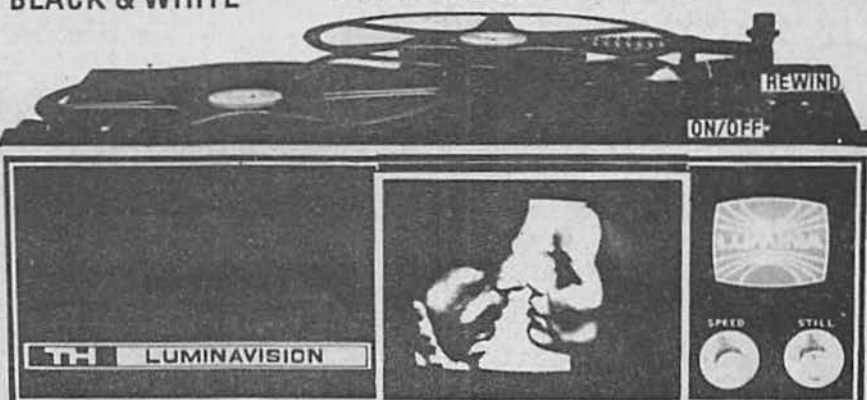
At some point, Heenan will overstep or miscalculate. But not right now. He must be given his proper credit. Whatever his goals, he is successful. □

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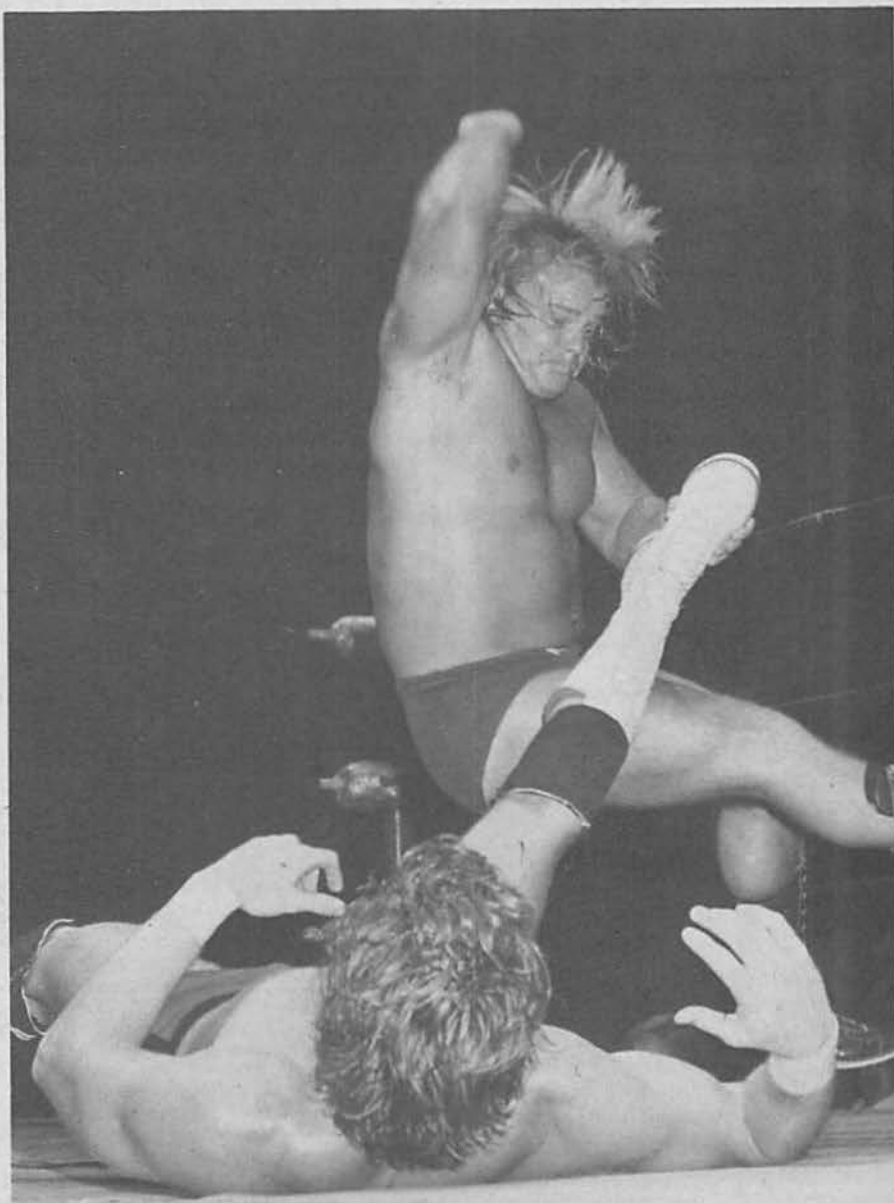
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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 39)



Valentine's elbow smash used to win matches for the Flair-Valentine team. Now Greg hopes to use it on Ric. Valentine had fully expected to convert Flair back into a rulebreaker when he returned to the Mid-Atlantic and he was furious when he found out he could not.

area is turnin' bad. Now you got a lot of goons to count on and bail you out when you're in trouble. But when you had to really fight, when the odds were against you, you split. More than anything, I can't respect that.

GV: So Ric Flair, great god of the Mid-Atlantic area, says I'm a coward. Well, there's one way

to settle this.

RF: Yeah, I heard you been bad-mouthing me.

GV: Tell me what I said, I forgot.

RF: That I'm soft.

GV: That's right, chump. Maybe you'd like to meet in an alley somewhere.

RF: You gonna have your bum friend Ray Stevens around to bail you out?

GV: I don't need no one to help me, man. Talk about needin' dudes. Why don't you and Steamboat get together with me and Ray somewhere? Oh, sorry, Ricky can't stay out after seven. Past his bedtime.

RF: Why don't you say that to Steamboat's face?

GV: Good. Tell him to come down and turn around.

RF: You're a brave bum with a telephone wire separatin' us. You'll run and scream like a banshee as soon as I come into the ring.



Valentine reaches out to tag Flair as the two battled Wahoo McDaniel and Rufus R. Jones in January 1977. They are now literally at each others throats.

GV: Anytime lame.

RF: Punk. You came back 'cause you got no where else to go. They drove you out of the WWF and now you're comin' lookin' for charity. No way, turkey. I'll ram your skull into the post and send you back home.

GV: Name the date.

RF: Anytime, chump, anytime. □

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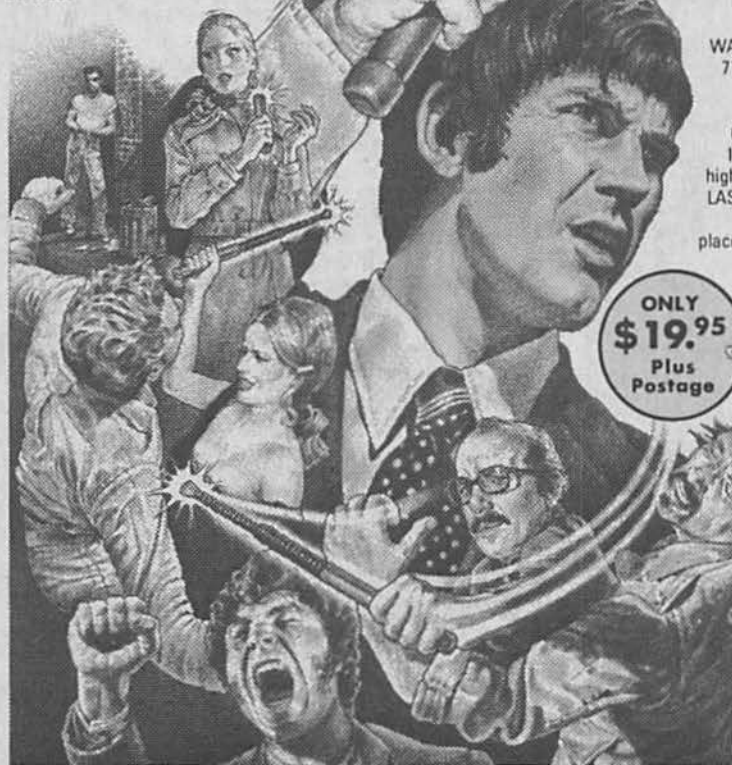
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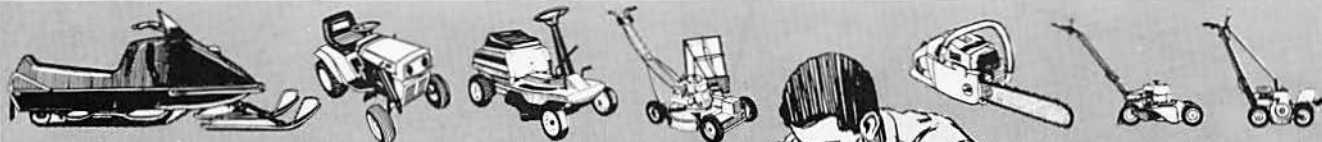
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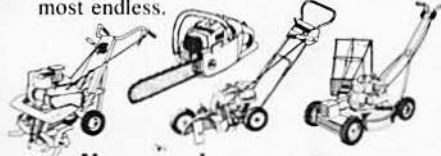
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Because the small engine industry has grown so quickly, an acute shortage of qualified Small Engine Professionals exists throughout the country. In fact, it's not unusual for a good small engine man to be three to four weeks behind in the summer and at least a week behind in the winter. When you see how many small engines are in use today, it's easy to understand why qualified men command such high prices—as much as \$17.50 for a simple tune-up that takes less than an hour!

46-million small engines are in service today!

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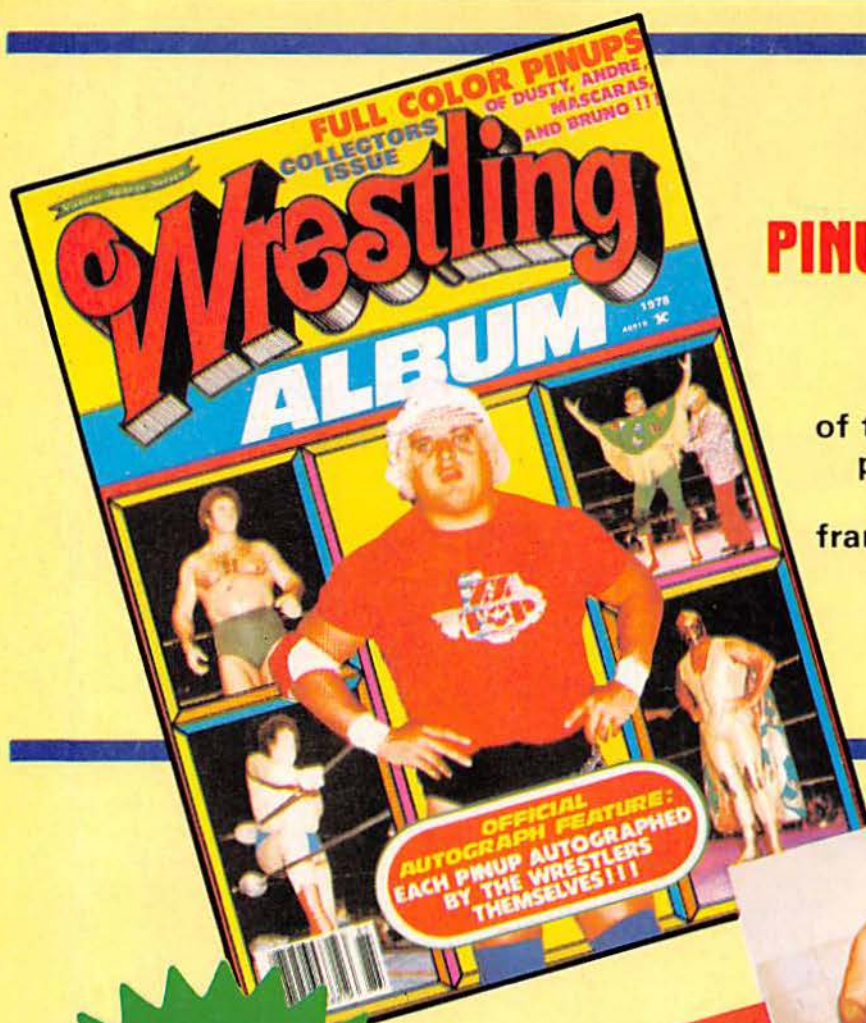
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